FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-203
Monday
23 October 1989

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-203 23 October 1989

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Deputies Agree on Document at Al-Ta'if Talks 1
Al-Faysal Departs Damascus *[VOL]* 1
Al-Faysal Briefs Deputies *[RFL]* 1
Agreement Reportedly Reached *[RFL]* 1
Negotiations Continue on Document *[Voice of National Resistance]* 2
Amended Document Approved *[RFL]* 2
Further on Approval of Document *[AFP]* 3
'Amended Text' of Disputed Clauses *[Beirut Radio]* 3
Sa'adah on Document Approval *[VOL]* 4
Voting Figures on Document Cited *[VOL]* 5

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi on U.S. Dialogue, Ties With Syria *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 18 Oct]* 5
Qaddumi Says U.S. Position 'Hampers Peace' *[WAKH]* 6
PLO To Continue With 'Futile' U.S. Dialogue *[London AL-MAJALLAH 24 Oct]* 6
PLO Reportedly Reviews Political Action in U.S. *[Kuwait AL-WATAN 21 Oct]* 6
'Arafat Sets Conditions for Visit to Syria *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 19 Oct]* 7
'Arafat Receives GDR, Swedish Ambassadors *[Baghdad VOP]* 7
'Arafat Says PLO To Reimburse Bayt Sahur Citizens *[Sanaa VOP]* 7
Palestinian National Fund Head Interviewed *[London AL-TADAMUN 16 Oct]* 8
PFLP's Habash Interviewed on Peace, USSR, Syria *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 21 Oct]* 9

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

'Arafat, Delegation Arrive on Official Visit 12
'Arafat, Salah Khalaf Arrive *[MENA]* 12
'Arafat Makes Statement *[Sanaa VOP]* 12
'Abd-al-Majid, 'Arafat Confer *[MENA]* 12
Mubarak Receives 'Arafat *[MENA]* 12
Talks To Continue 23 Oct *[MENA]* 12
'Abd-al-Majid Comments on Baker Telephone Call *[Cairo Radio]* 12
Butrus Ghali Meets Visiting Soviet Official *[Cairo Radio]* 12
Defense Minister Addresses Navy Day Ceremony *[Cairo Radio]* 13
Minister Comments on Talks With World Bank, IMF *[MENA]* 13
Archbishop Desmond Tutu Arrives in Cairo *[MENA]* 13
Jewish Secular Center Head Arrives on Visit *[MENA]* 13
Dailies Urge Continued U.S. Peace Efforts *[MENA]* 14
Editorial Raps U.S. Statements on Mideast Peace *[AL-AKHBAR 20 Oct]* 14
Editorial Criticizes Israel's Rejection of Plans *[AL-AHRAM 19 Oct]* 15
Abolition of Subsidies 'Firmly' Rejected *[Cairo Radio]* 15
Communist Group Uncovered; 13 Arrested, Tortured *[AL-WAFD 19 Oct]* 15
Czechoslovak Government Extends Loan to Egypt *[AL-AHRAM 23 Oct]* 15

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Al-Humaydi After Tour *[JANA]* 15
Source Denies Presence of Troops in Somalia *[JANA]* 16
Transport, Communications Strike Ordered *[JANA]* 16

Sudan

Al-Bashir Denies Reports Al-Mahdi Tortured *[SUNA]* 16
Extends Cease-Fire in South *[Cairo Radio]* 16
Declares 1-Month Cease-Fire *[SUNA]* 16
Appeals to Rebels for Talks *[SUNA]* 17
National Dialogue Meeting Issues Recommendations *[MENA]* 17
Ends Deliberations *[SUNA]* 18
Al-Bashir on Egyptian 'Contacts' With SPLA *[SUNA]* 18
Al-Bashir Denies Planning Deal With Parties *[SUNA]* 18
President Al-Bashir Announces Prisoner Release *[Omdurman Radio]* 19
SPLA Radio on Garang Tour, Objectives 19
Chadian Government, Dissident Troops Clash *[AFP]* 21

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Queen Elizabeth Leaves Manama After Short Visit *[WAKH]* 22

Kuwait

PDRY Prime Minister Nu'man on Official Visit *[KUNA]* 22
Aden Radio Reports Arrival 22
Meets With Crown Prince *[KUNA]* 22

Oman

Visiting Djibouti Minister Meets Officials *[Muscat Radio]* 23

PDRY

YSP Deputy Secretary General Departs for Moscow *[Aden Radio]* 23
Official Urges Investors To Benefit From Laws *[Aden Radio]* 23
Final Stage of Communications Project Opened *[Aden Radio]* 24

Qatar

Amir Receives Telephone Call From YAR President *[WAKH]* 24

Saudi Arabia

'Sources' Deny Report of Violence in Kingdom *[SPA]* 24

United Arab Emirates

Djibouti Foreign Minister Arrives With Message *[WAKH]* 24
Confers With Rashid 'Abdallah *[WAKH]* 24
Departs for Muscat 21 Oct *[WAKH]* 24
Ethiopian Envoy Leaves Abu Dhabi 22 Oct *[WAKH]* 25

Yemen Arab Republic

President Praises Al-Qadhdhafi-Mubarak Meeting *[Sanaa Radio]* 25

ISRAEL

Shamir Rejects U.S. Plan on PLO Talks Role *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 26
Shamir Calls U.S. Critics 'Slanderers,' 'Liars' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 23 Oct]* 26

Baker's Plan Must Agree With Israeli Initiative *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Shamir Seeking U.S. Commitment of Support *[THE JERUSALEM POST 23 Oct]* 26
Rabin Briefed on Contacts Held in Washington *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 27
Pazner Hopes No New Tension in Ties With U.S. *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Differences To Be Clarified *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Paper Views U.S. Move as Prompt for Labor *[AL HAMISHMAR 22 Oct]* 29
Cabinet Discusses MiG Probe, Procurement Plan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Hayim Oron To Head MAPAM Knesset Faction *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Knesset To Vote on 4 No-Confidence Motions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Poll: Continuation of Unity Government Favored *[MAARIV 22 Oct]* 30
Congressmen Lobbied on U.S.-Saudi Tank Deal *[MENA]* 30
U.S.-Iranian Contacts on Hostages Confirmed *[YEDIOT AHARONOT 22 Oct]* 30
Novik Notes Soviet 'Coolness' on Peres Visit *[YEDIOT AHARONOT 19 Oct]* 30
Peres' Moscow Visit Postponed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Novik Returns From USSR *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Novik's USSR Visit Detailed *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 31
Poland's Mazowiecki Committed To Resuming Ties *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Polish Representative Discusses Economic Ties *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Turkey To Upgrade Ties if Armenian Day Foiled *[HA'ARETZ 22 Oct]* 32
Weizman To Sign Technology Agreement in Spain *[MAARIV 22 Oct]* 32
Pact Reached With PRC News Agency on Exchange *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Voice of Israel Begins Broadcasting to Yemen *[YEDIOT AHARONOT 18 Oct]* 32
IDF Unaware of UNIFIL Complaint About SLA *[AL HAMISHMAR 22 Oct]* 32
Tax Collection in Territories Down One-Third *[HA'ARETZ 20 Oct]* 33
Army Declares Bethlehem, Bayt Sahur Closed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Bayt Sahur Warned 'You Alone Will Go Hungry' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 20 Oct]* 33

JORDAN

King Husayn Lectures at Oxford University *[Amman Radio]* 35
King Husayn Returns From Italy, Canada, UK *[Amman Radio]* 37
Prince, Ibn-Shakir Receive Latvian Delegation *[Amman Radio]* 37
Communists Reportedly Restore Unity for Elections *[AL-WATAN 21 Oct]* 38
Airline Repays Debt by Selling Aircraft Fleet *[JORDAN TIMES 19-20 Oct]* 38
Editorial Accuses U.S. of 'Cutting Out' PLO *[JORDAN TIMES 21 Oct]* 39
Source Says PLO Has 'Central Role' in Talks *[JORDAN TIMES 21 Oct]* 39

LEBANON

'Awn Considers Al-Ta'if Solution 'Trap' *[RFL]* 41
Meeting Seen as 'Capitulation' *[AFP]* 41
U.S. Reportedly Views 'Awn as Obstacle to Peace *[AL-QABAS 19 Oct]* 41
AFP reports Islamic Jihad Threat to Deputies 41
VOL Reports on Jihad Threat 41
Al-Huss Urges Deputies To Pass Draft Document *[Beirut Radio]* 42
Ibrahimi Briefs Al-Huss, 'Awn on Al-Ta'if Pact 42
Confers With Al-Huss *[VOM]* 42
Meets With 'Awn at Palace *[VOL]* 42
Comments on Meeting With 'Awn *[VOL]* 42
Michel 'Awn Rejects Al-Ta'if Peace Agreement *[AFP]* 42
'Awn Details Rejection *[RFL]* 42
Al-Musawi Rules Out Results From Al-Ta'if *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 43
Amal Movement Rejects Al-Ta'if Solution *[Beirut Radio]* 43
Amal's Nabih Birri Denies Escalating Demands *[Beirut Radio]* 43
Further on Press Conference *[Voice of National Resistance]* 43
Junblatt Accuses Syria of 'Letting Him Down' *[VOL]* 44
Iran's Mohtashemi Reportedly Visits Al-Biqa' *[AFP]* 44
Army Buildup Reported in East Beirut Areas *[Beirut Radio]* 44
Group Claims Killing of 3 Syrian Soldiers *[VOL]* 44
Missile Fired at 'Awn Camp; No Casualties *[AFP]* 44

SYRIA

Committee Formed To Investigate Plane Crash *[Damascus Radio]* 45
Algerian Foreign Minister Visits Damascus 45
Ghazali Arrives 22 Oct *[Damascus TV]* 45
Received by Khaddam *[Damascus Radio]* 45
Need for Troops' Presence in Lebanon Explained *[SANA]* 45
AL-BA'TH Cited on Lebanese Sovereignty *[Damascus Radio]* 46
TISHRIN Defends Syrian Presence in Lebanon *[Damascus Radio]* 46
'Isolationist' Obstacles at Al-Ta'if Assailed *[Damascus Radio]* 46
Strength of Palestinian Uprising Reaffirmed *[Voice of Arab Egypt]* 47
Commentator Questions Arab Responses to Israel *[Damascus Radio]* 48
Israel's Rejection of Baker Plan Discussed *[Damascus Radio]* 49

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Government's Statement on Convoy's Protection *[Kabul Radio]* 50
More on Rebel Plans To Stop Convoy *[AFP]* 50
'Extremists' Launch 6 Missiles on Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 51
Government Buys U.S. Missiles From Opposition *[Kabul Radio]* 51
Further on Missile Purchase *[BAKHTAR]* 51
Mujahidin Occupy Town in Helmand Province *[Islamabad Radio]* 51
Mujahidin Attack Bagram; Warplanes Retaliate *[Islamabad Radio]* 51

India

Daily Publishes Swedish Report on Bofors Payments *[THE HINDU 9 Oct]* 52
Janata Dal Urges Break in Ties With Sweden *[AFP]* 53
President Suspends Session of Parliament *[Delhi Radio]* 53
Further on Gandhi's Call for Early Elections 53
President's Notice Begins Process *[Delhi Radio]* 53
Gandhi Kin To Run for Janata Dal *[AFP]* 53
Parties 'Racing' To Find Candidates *[AFP]* 54
Opposition Denied Use of Symbols *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Parties Given New Election Symbols *[Delhi Radio]* 55
National Front's Election Manifesto *[Delhi Radio]* 55
110 Political Parties Registered *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Ordinance Issued To 'Delink' Assam From Elections *[Delhi Radio]* 56
3 Killed, 7 Injured in Gujarat; Curfew Imposed *[Delhi Radio]* 56
'Terrorists' Kill 9 in Ferozepore, Amritsar *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle's Test Successful *[Delhi Radio]* 56

Iran

'Arrested U.S. Spies' To Disclose Information *[IRNA]* 57
Paper Criticizes New FBI Rules on Fugitives *[IRNA]* 57
Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Velayati Comments on 'Stalemate' in Peace Talks *[IRNA]* 60
Mohtashemi Reportedly Visits Eastern Lebanon *[AFP]* 61
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Continues Tour in Northwest 61
Discusses Plan To Combat Inflation *[Tehran Radio]* 61
Addresses Armed Forces in Orumiyeh *[Tehran Radio]* 61
Arrives in Sanandaj 20 Oct *[Tehran Radio]* 62
Further on Arrival in Sanandaj *[IRNA]* 62
Speaks on Kurds, Plots, Resources *[IRNA]* 63
Returns to Tehran 21 Oct *[IRNA]* 63
Briefs Cabinet on Tour of Provinces *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Foreign Ministry Condemns Israel on Mosque Issue *[Tehran TV]* 64
Majlis Speaker Condemns Plan *[Tehran Radio]* 64

Majlis Committee Condemns Plans *[IRNA]* 64
Mahdavi-Kani Named Supervisor of Tehran Mosques *[Tehran Radio]* 64

Pakistan

Bhutto Sends Messages to Indian Leaders, Others *[Islamabad Radio]* 65
Briefs Press on Malaysia Meeting *[Islamabad Radio]* 65
Party Convention Endorses Merger With PPP *[Islamabad Radio]* 66
Fire Guts Tankers at Karachi Oil Terminal *[AFP]* 66
Fire in Storage Tanks Extinguished *[Islamabad Radio]* 66

Sri Lanka

President Approves State of Emergency Extension *[Delhi Radio]* 66
'Sources' Say LTTE Leader Arrives in Colombo *[AFP]* 66
IPKF Contingent Leaves Amparai for Home *[Delhi Radio]* 67
Jayewardene Retires From Politics, Quits Party *[Delhi Radio]* 67
25 More People Killed in Violence, Clashes *[Delhi Radio]* 67
22 Reported Killed *[Delhi Radio]* 67
Police Arrest 'Subversives,' Seize Weapons *[Colombo International]* 67

Inter-Arab Affairs

Deputies Agree on Document at Al-Ta'if Talks

Al-Faysal Departs Damascus

NC2010122289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal has expressed optimism that the al-Ta'if meetings will be successful and described his talks in Damascus as fruitful.

Al-Faysal is reported to have left Damascus this afternoon after meeting with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, but some media sources report he is still holding talks in Damascus with Syrian officials on the issue of sovereignty in Lebanon. Al-Faysal was also quoted today as saying that we are trying to find a solution for the Lebanese issue through cooperation with Syria. He added: We cannot move or succeed without cooperation from Damascus. He pointed out that the lines of communication with Damascus are continuously open and cooperation with it is solid, and this is what enhances confidence in success.

Al-Faysal Briefs Deputies

NC2010224089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Excerpts] After returning from the Syrian capital, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has been involved in intensive consultations with Lebanese deputies to brief them on the outcome of his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, and Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar'.

Al-Faysal is currently meeting with the independent parliamentary bloc. He has met with Deputy Dr George Sa'adah and the four-member committee comprising Deputies Rene Mu'awwad, Khashik Babikian, Nasri al-Ma'luf, and Butrus Harb. [passage omitted]

Al-Faysal also met with Deputies Husayn al-Husayni, Sa'ib Salam, Amin al-Hafiz, 'Adil 'Usayran, Kazim al-Khalil, Rashid al-Sulh, Tawfiq 'Assaf, and Zahir al-Khatib.

Following his meeting with Prince al-Faysal, former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam said: I think that Prince Sa'ud has achieved the best possible results. Salam voiced his deep satisfaction with the results, noting that his motto has been and still is: No victor and no vanquished. Salam said: The most important thing in our work is to open the door for a solution. I believe that the Lebanese deputies will be able to reach a common stand in the near future.

Sources close to Salam have noted that Monday will be the date of the deputies' return to Beirut.

Meanwhile, Deputy Jamil Kibbah said: Every side has received a consolation prize and Lebanon has won the biggest prize. [passage omitted]

According to sources close to some of the deputies who met with Sa'ud al-Faysal tonight, the Saudi minister briefed the deputies on his visit to Damascus and informed them that he will put forward a formula that he hopes will satisfy everyone. This formula would introduce some modifications that would balance the demands of both Lebanese sides.

REUTER has cited parliamentary sources as saying that Prince al- Faysal told them that his talks in Damascus have been difficult but fruitful. Al-Faysal will present a memorandum to the Lebanese deputies defining the views of the Arab tripartite committee in the modifications the deputies had proposed adding to the reconciliation document. Al-Faysal hopes that the memorandum will be satisfactory to all sides. [passage omitted]

Agreement Reportedly Reached

NC2010152789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] According to exclusive information obtained by Radio Free Lebanon, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal reached agreement with Syrian officials on making certain amendments to the Arab document's clause dealing with Lebanese sovereignty. Our political correspondent reports that some of the amendments are as follows:

First, the Syrian forces will be under the supervision of the Lebanese Government during the 2-year period specified for completing their withdrawal to al-Biqa'. The Arab document had formerly merely noted that these forces' role during the period in question will consist of assisting the legitimate Lebanese government to establish its authority.

Second, the clause dealing with the points at which the Syrian forces will be deployed after the 2-year period has been amended to specify definite points for this deployment. This issue had not been specifically addressed in the Arab document.

The third and most important amendment deals with extending the mandate of the Arab tripartite committee to 2 years. In accordance with this extension, the committee will supervise the implementation of the clauses of the agreement and the Syrian withdrawal.

The exclusive reports received by Radio Free Lebanon add that it has been agreed that the Mansur Palace will be the venue for the election of the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and a president of the republic. A joint security force comprising elements from the army in East and West Beirut and acting under the supervision of Algerian officers will supervise the elections. A senior Arab figure, possibly Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, will attend the elections session. Informed

sources have told our radio that Al-Faysal expressed satisfaction with the results achieved during his visit to Syria.

Negotiations Continue on Document

NC2210085689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Parliamentary consultations and meetings, particularly among the eastern area deputies and with the Arab tripartite committee, have continued in al-Ta'if in a bid to remove obstacles preventing the achievement of a common agreement on the national accord document. The most significant of these consultations are those which are being held by the eastern area deputies to formulate a stand on the Arab document. The eastern area deputies, who held two meetings yesterday, one in the evening and the second at midnight, will determine their position on the amended document at a meeting to be held at 1100 today. They will discuss the Christian decision in light of the amendments introduced to the articles on sovereignty and Lebanese-Syrian relations, the reconfirmation of the number of deputies at 128, and confirmation of the provisions contained in the Arab document regarding the elimination of sectarianism. The other amendments to the article on reform remain the same. [passage omitted]

Referring to the guarantees which some deputies have demanded regarding a timetable for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon, informed sources in al-Ta'if have said that the Arab tripartite committee has agreed to continue its efforts on behalf of Lebanon until the completion of the Syrian withdrawal from all Lebanese territory, rather than until 2 months from today or until the 6 months set by the emergency Arab summit conference in Casablanca in May are up.

Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal ended his meetings with the Lebanese parliamentary blocs yesterday. Some of the deputies he met quoted him as affirming that the new ideas and amendments to the national accord document which he is proposing are considered a big step forward, following Syria's favorable response to the wishes of the Lebanese deputies. Sufficient guarantees and assurances have been given by Syria. Al-Faysal hinted that these amendments are final—that is, there is no room for any further changes or guarantees. The proposals that have been made now must either be accepted or rejected, and those who reject them must bear the responsibility for failure.

Minister al-Faysal handed the deputies with whom he met yesterday a copy of the amendments agreed upon in the Arab document. He explained the reasons and justifications for the amendments and informed the deputies that some of the proposals they had made had been approved. Al-Faysal made it clear to the deputies that these amendments must be accepted or rejected, and cannot be altered any further.

The amendment to the fourth paragraph of the second article pertaining to Lebanese sovereignty is as follows: Whereas the aim of the Lebanese state is to extend its authority over the whole of Lebanese territory through its own forces represented in the first place by the internal security forces, Lebanon is grateful that owing to the brotherly relations which link Syria to Lebanon the Syrian forces will, for a specified period of time not to exceed 2 years, help the legitimate Lebanese forces to extend the authority of the Lebanese state. This period is to begin after the ratification of the national accord document, the election of a president, the formation of a government of national accord, and the introduction of political reforms. The period will be decided by the two governments—the Syrian Government and the Lebanese National Accord Government. The amendment continues: The Syrian forces will redeploy in the al-Biqa' region and at the approach to al-Baydar up to the Hammanah, al-Mudayrij, and 'Ayn Darah line, and if necessary at other points which will be determined by a joint Lebanese-Syrian military committee. An agreement will be signed between the two governments defining the size and the duration of the Syrian forces' presence in these areas and the relationship of these forces to the Lebanese state authorities in their deployment locations. The supreme Arab tripartite committee is prepared to help the two countries arrive at this agreement if they so desire.

Amended Document Approved

NC2210145489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1350 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Our correspondent in al-Ta'if reports that the eastern area's deputies have approved the amended clause pertaining to sovereignty while expressing some reservations. They asked Saudi Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal to include these reservations in the final statement to be issued by the Arab tripartite committee. Here is Michel al-Kik with a message from al-Ta'if:

[Begin Al-Kik recording] The eastern deputies held a third meeting today from 1200 to 1500 local time. In a positive atmosphere, the meeting was chaired by Senior Deputy Kazim al- Khalil. The conferees accepted the amended text brought back from Damascus by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal but added some reservations on basic issues including the time limits for Syrian withdrawals. As reported in the 1345 newscast, the inclination is not to reject the amended text. The parliamentary sources we had approached believed that this meeting would be decisive. Indeed, the meeting has ended with positive results.

It has been learned that the conferees have categorically rejected that the number of deputies should be increased to 128. This was a demand the Syrians insisted on. The sources added that the majority of the deputies agreed that the number should be 108. They considered the Syrian insistence on 128 deputies as blatant interference in Lebanon's internal affairs.

It has been learned that there was full agreement between Phalangist leader George Sa'adah and Deputy Michel Sasin in his capacity as a representative of the National Liberal Party. We have also learned that the conferees have formed a committee consisting of Deputies Kazim al-Khalil, George Sa'adah, Nasi al-Ma'luf, Butrus Harb, Khatchig Babikian, and Joseph Skaf to discuss the issue of the Syrian presence in al-Biqa'. The committee went immediately to the suite of Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal to inform him that there are certain things in the sovereignty and Syrian relations clauses that are acceptable and other matters that cannot be accepted. The unacceptable items must be clarified and included in a Arab tripartite committee statement, which should include the necessary guarantees.

These are the latest developments. The end to the al-Ta'if meetings, which are in their 23d day, is nearing. [end recording]

Further on Approval of Document

NC2210170189 Paris AFP in English 1642 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, Oct 22 (AFP)—Lebanese MPs [members of parliament] on Sunday reached agreement on a new peace plan for Lebanon drafted by a three-nation Arab committee, a senior Christian deputy said here.

"An accord has now been reached," George Sa'adah told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. "The final details have been worked out...and the only thing left is to finish the final text."

The Lebanese parliament has been meeting here since September 30 to debate the Arab plan, with agreement blocked until now over differences between Moslem and Christian deputies on a withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

Mr. Sa'adah, speaking after a meeting of anti-Syrian Christian parliamentarians, said Christian leader Michel 'Awn had been informed of the agreement, along with the Maronite patriarch, Nasrallah Sfayr. The Christian camp, under heavy pressure from General 'Awn, had been demanding a timetable for a Syrian withdrawal before approving a "document of national understanding" submitted by Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria.

But following a meeting earlier Sunday with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Christian deputies received "an assurance that the necessary clarifications and guarantees will appear in a supplemental text" to accompany the principal document, according to one Christian MP.

A select 17-man committee, grouping all parliamentary tendencies, met Sunday to prepare the final version of the overall peace accord, with a plenary session planned for later in the day, parliamentary sources reported. The Arab text, which has undergone only minor changes in 23 days of debate here, calls for Syrian troops to redeploy in eastern Lebanon two years after the approval of political reform in Lebanon. The text had the backing of pro-Syrian Moslem MPs, who objected to any changes in its original wording.

In addition to a Syrian redeployment, the document also proposes that executive power be shifted from the traditionally Maronite Christian president to Sunni and Shiite Moslem leaders. The deputies earlier this month reached consensus on political reforms but lingering disputes over a Syrian withdrawal had held up final endorsement of the package.

'Amended Text' of Disputed Clauses

NC2210191489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Excerpts] East Beirut deputies this afternoon approved the amended draft of the clauses pertaining to sovereignty and Lebanese-Syrian relations. They expressed reservation on the clause relating to an increase in the number of deputies in the Chamber of Deputies to 128. [passage omitted]

A delegation of East Beirut deputies met with Saudi Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal in al-Ta'if at 1500 Beirut time this afternoon and told him about the agreement that was reached. The delegation will convey the same agreement to Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al- Husayni later this evening.

It has been reported from al-Ta'if that Phalangist leader George Sa'adah told AFP a short while ago that the Lebanese deputies have approved the national accord document. Following the deputies' meeting with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Sa'adah asserted that the last point of disagreement has been resolved and that all that remains is to draft the final formula.

The following is the amended text of the two clauses pertaining to the imposition of sovereignty and relations with Syria.

The imposition of the State of Lebanon's sovereignty over all of Lebanon: Whereas it has been agreed among the Lebanese parties to establish a strong and capable state on the basis of the national accord, the national accord government will draw up a detailed 1- year security plan, the object of which is to impose the authority of the State of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory through its intrinsic forces. The following is the outline of this plan:

1. To declare the disbandment of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias and the surrender of their weapons to the State of Lebanon within 6 months, which is to begin following the ratification of the national accord document, the election of the president of the republic, and the formation of a national accord government to decide the political reforms in a constitutional way.

2. To strengthen the internal security forces by:

a. Opening the doors of recruitment to all Lebanese without exception and starting their training centrally and then assigning them to the units in the governorates and requiring them to attend organized periodical training courses.
b. Strengthening the security apparatus in such a way to enable it to control of the entry and departure of persons by land, sea, and air across the borders.

3. To reinforce the Armed Forces:

a. The primary mission of the Armed Forces is to defend the homeland and, if necessary, to maintain public order if the situation is beyond the internal security forces' ability to deal with it.
b. The Armed Forces will be mobilized to assist the internal security forces in preserving security under the conditions decided upon by the cabinet.
c. The Armed Forces will be unified, trained, and readied to shoulder their national responsibility in confronting Israeli aggression.
d. When the internal security forces are ready to assume their security duties, the Armed Forces will return to their barracks.
e. The intelligence aparatus of the Armed Forces will be reorganized to serve only military purposes.

4. To solve the problem of the radically displaced Lebanese, to establish the right of every Lebanese who has been displaced since 1975 to return to the place that he left, to formulate the legislation guaranteeing this right, and to provide the means necessary for reconstruction.

Whereas it is the goal of the State of Lebanon to impose its authority over all Lebanese territory through its intrinsic forces, primarily represented by the internal security forces, and by virtue of the reality of the fraternal relations between Syria and Lebanon, the Syrian forces will assist, with due thanks, the legitimate Lebanese Forces in imposing the State of Lebanon's authority within a time period limited to at most 2 years. This period will begin following the ratification of the national accord document, the election of the president of the republic, the formation of the national accord government, and the establishment of the political reforms in a constitutional way.

At the end of this period, the Syrian Government and the Lebanese national accord government will decide the redeployment of the Syrian forces in the al-Biqa' area and from the entrance of western al-Biqa' in Dahr al-Baydar to the Hammanah-al-Mudayrij-'Ayn Dara line and, if necessary, at other points to be determined by a joint Lebanese-Syrian military committee. Moreover, the two governments will conclude an agreement fixing the size of the Syrian forces in the areas mentioned and defining the relations of these forces with the State of Lebanon's authorities in the areas in which they are present. The Arab higher committee is prepared to assist the two states in concluding this agreement if they so wish.

5. Lebanese-Syrian relations: Lebanon, which is Arab in its affiliation and identity, is linked by sincere fraternal ties with all Arab states. Distinguished relations, which derive their strength from the roots of kinship and history and common fraternal interests, exist between it and Syria. This is a concept on which coordination and cooperation between the two countries are based. It is crystallized by agreements between them in various fields serving the interests of the two fraternal countries within the framework of the sovereignty and independence of each of them. On this basis, and whereas the consolidation of the foundation of security will create the atmosphere required for the development of these distinguished ties, it is essential that Lebanon must not become a threat to Syria's security, and vice versa, under any circumstances.

Therefore, Lebanon will not permit itself to become a passage or headquarters for any force, state, or organization that seeks to harm its security or that of Syria and Syria, which is intent on Lebanon's security, independence, and unity and accord among its sons, will not permit any tampering that threatens Lebanon's security, independence, and sovereignty.

Sa'adah on Document Approval

NC2210194589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] The gray clouds over the conferences palace in al-Ta'if today began to clear this evening. Breakthroughs have been achieved, represented by Phalangist Party leader and Deputy Dr George Sa'adah's announcement that an agreement has been reached in al-Ta'if and by an announcement that Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi arrived in Beirut tonight and will meet with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn at 2130.

A 17-member parliamentary committee, representing all views, met this evening to approve the final draft of the agreement.

The deputies will hold a general meeting this evening to approve the text.

Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah told the Voice of Lebanon this evening that the eastern area deputies have approved the national accord document after it was amended following Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal's visit to Damascus.

The verbatim text of Dr Sa'adah's statement follows:

The amended accord document was approved at a general meeting. However, after an approval in principle, I cautioned that because of loyalty to the cause and in order to ensure that the agreement we reached will be properly implemented, the accord document must be announced in an atmosphere of comprehensive national reconciliation. Furthermore, my personal decision is linked to consultations with bodies and figures I cannot ignore. Therefore, my approval depends on the attainment of the following:

1. That the closing speech of His Majesty King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz include reassurances that take into consideration earlier remarks but that have not been mentioned in the amendments introduced to the document; and that the tripartite Arab committee ensure that the document will be properly implemented.

2. That the number of members of the Chamber of Deputies should be 108, as previously agreed, must be approved.

3. That prior to the announcement of the approval of the document, His Beatitude Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr, should be contacted to obtain his approval. I have already contacted Patriarch Sfayr, and he expressed his satisfaction with the results. His Excellency Prime Minister Michel 'Awn should be contacted and informed of the results and briefed on the prevailing atmosphere in al-Ta'if. When necessary, Prime Ministers 'Awn and Salim al-Huss should be invited to Jeddah to attend the session during which approval of the accord document will be announced. The Lebanese Front, of which I have the honor of being the leader, should also be contacted.

After the deputies unanimously approved these proposals, a committee was formed and tasked with presenting the proposals to Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. Prince al-Faysal did what he needed to do and then received us and expressed a positive stand on all these conditions.

Afterward, I received a telephone call from Dany Sham'un and then from Prime Minister General 'Awn. I briefed them on the new positive developments. They were satisfied with these developments. Therefore, I believe that the al-Ta'if meeting is now proceeding toward a happy ending, especially after the reassurances that we have received. On this occasion I must express my admiration for the sense of responsibility my colleague deputies have shown during the al-Ta'if meetings. I also thank His Majesty King Fahd Ibn-'Abd- al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and his Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, for their efforts to bring about the success of the al-Ta'if meeting. Likewise, I thank Morocco and Algeria, represented by their foreign ministers, as well as Arab Committee envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi, for their efforts. I also congratulate the deputy leader of the Phalangist Party and the members of the party's political bureau on the spirit of vigilance, openness, maturity, and flexibility they have shown during their leadership of the democratic process by having the political and spiritual leaders participate with their views, advice, and responsibility regarding the fateful subject that has been put before al-Ta'if meeting.

Voting Figures on Document Cited

NC2310093089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] At their expanded meeting in al-Ta'if last night, 58 out of a total of 62 deputies approved the amended reconciliation document. Deputy Hasan al-Rifa'i abstained from voting, emphasizing that the text of the document contains legal ambiguities. Deputy Edward Hunayn was absent because of illness. Deputies Zahir al-Khatib and Tawfiq 'Assaf expressed reservations on the document.

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi on U.S. Dialogue, Ties With Syria

JN2010151989 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 18 Oct 89 p 3, 20

[By Yusuf al-Khatir]

[Excerpt] PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi has praised the fixed stand adhered to by the United Arab Emirates under His Highness President Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan on supporting the Palestinian people and their blessed intifadah.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ITTIHAD, he said that opening dialogue with the United States is in itself a step forward for the U.S. side in refuting charges of terrorism regarding the PLO. He added that the dialogue has given us the opportunity to enter into U.S. society and be in contact with the media and intellectuals there.

Qaddumi affirmed that the PLO does not expect tangible results in a short amount of time. We should take into consideration that the United States is biased toward Israel. U.S. President George Bush said that Israel is a friend, strategic partner, and ally of the United States. Successive U.S. administrations also affirmed that the priority in foreign policy concerning the Middle East is to preserve Israel's security and do what is needed to consolidate this security. He affirmed that the PLO's dialogue with the United States is intended to prove to the world that the United States is still taking a biased stand toward Israel in its Middle East policy and still provides Israel with what it did previously. This will not help establish a just and permament peace in the Middle East region. He said the United States is the only state that supports Israel in the United Nations by using the veto in any resolutions concerning the Palestine question. Washington also opposes the Palestinian resolutions and any Palestinian request to join any specialized agencies.

He pointed out that dialogue is the channel to U.S. public opinion. However, we do not hope for much from this dialogue. China previously opened a long dialogue that lasted 20 years before the United States recognized it.

Regarding Palestinian relations with Syria, Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] said that the dispute between us has gone on for too long. Many sides have mediated between us to normalize relations with Syria. However, we have not had any results in the past years. We had hoped not to reach the point of arguing with one of the largest confrontationist states because we need Arab effort. How can we not need the Syrian efforts and role to

confront the Israeli aggression and invasion of the Arab region? In the past period, we held many meetings in Belgrade and the United Nations in New York.

Qaddumi described these meetings as very warm. During these meetings, we discussed the necessity to normalize relations between Syria and the PLO. Other meetings took place in the United Nations between us and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on the condition that further meetings will take place. We discussed numerous issues. Undoubtedly, both sides need normal relations. There were issues that were discussed that will be placed on the agenda of future meetings. We hope to God that these measures will take place as soon as possible so that we can normalize these relations. Each of us needs the other because the presence of the Israeli aggression needs close, solid, and coordinated Arab efforts to confront it since its aggression and aggressive and expansionist policy is spreading dangerously. [passage omitted]

Qaddumi Says U.S. Position 'Hampers Peace'

JN2110115889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0940 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Doha, 21 Oct (WAKH)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has said the current U.S. position hampers the peace process in the region. He said that whoever wants a just and comprehensive peace to be established in the Middle East cannot adopt a position totally biased in favor of the opponents of Palestinian Arab rights.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-RAYAH published here today, the Palestinian official explained: "James Baker's points do not constitute an initiative, because they concentrate on elections in the occupied territories, which are only one aspect of the issue. These elections are completely rejected because they mean nothing and are not democratic because they would take place under military occupation."

Qaddumi added that the Palestinians have informed the United States that a declaration of principle is needed to show that elections are one stage in a comprehensive peace settlement. He confirmed the rejection of all ideas that ignore the national rights of the Palestinian people, who will accept nothing short of full independence within the boundaries of the state they have declared.

He explained that Israel is completely mistaken if it believes that it can end the intifadah through its government's intransigent position and by its rejection of international peace intiatives.

He stated that time is on the side of the Palestinian state because it will inevitably be established on the soil of Palestine, regardless of the Israeli terrorism and repression and irrespective of the volume of the U.S. aid to Israel.

PLO To Continue With 'Futile' U.S. Dialogue

PM2010152589 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 24 Oct 89 p 8

[Unattributed report: "Future of U.S.-Palestinian Dialogue"]

[Text] A responsible Palestinian source has emphasized that the U.S-Palestinian dialogue is politically futile and its significance has declined in the face of international recognition of the Palestinian state—by 89 states so far—as well as the support of Western Europe, first and foremost of France, for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish their Palestinian state. The official revealed that Washington has made contact with the PLO with a view to stopping it from suspending the dialogue. He also said that Egypt too had advised 'Arafat not to break off the dialogue. The source affirmed that, despite its political futility and in view of Zionist and U.S. exploitation of the idea of continuing the dialogue in its present form, the PLO is to present a political formula to put that dialogue in a proper form.

PLO Reportedly Reviews Political Action in U.S.

JN2210171889 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 21 Oct 89 p 22

[By Muhammad Dalbah]

[Text] Washington—AL-WATAN has learned that the PLO's leadership has recently begun to review the Palestinian political and propaganda action in the United States. It also learned that the PLO is seriously planning to change the methods of action that it has practiced for a number of years through numerous representatives, offices, and institutions in Washington, New York, and other major U.S. cities. This activity has cost millions of dollars a month without tangible or positive results.

These changes will mainly affect the Palestine Information Office in Washington. AL-WATAN has learned that contacts are underway with Dr Ibrahim Abu-Lughod, Palestine National Council member and professor at Northwestern University in Chicago, to persuade him to accept the post of director of the Palestine Information Office in Washington—a post equivalent to that of a PLO representative. If he accepts, he will replace the current director, Hasan 'Abd-al-Rahman.

In 1987, the U.S. Justice Department closed the Palestine Information Office in Washington and it now functions under the name of Palestinian Affairs Center at the Arab League's office in Washington.

AL-WATAN sources say that Abu-Lughod is currently studying this proposal favorably, on the condition that Palestinian action in the United States is united under the supervision of the office and a committee of U.S. academics of Palestinian origin.

The sources add that the U.S. State Department has expressed the desire to unite Palestinian activity in

Washington to avoid conflicting reports and news which are sent to the Palestinian leadership in Tunis and which adversely influence the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

The sources say that U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau has hinted to this effect many times to the Palestinian leaders whom he has met. He expressed his extreme dissatisfaction with the numerous and conflicting reports sent by Palestinian leaders' personal representatives in U.S. cities to more than one office in the PLO. He said these reports were untrue and lacked credibility. He added that, generally, those reports were mere translations of articles appearing in U.S. newspapers, which were then presented as official reports attributed to U.S. officials and exclusive sources which no one knew anything about.

'Arafat Sets Conditions for Visit to Syria

JN2110151889 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 19 Oct 89 p 31

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—Well-informed Palestinian sources have affirmed that the PLO's relations with Syria will witness an important turning point during the next 2 weeks.

The same sources explained that Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid, also known as Abu-al-Hawl, Fatah Central Committee member and head of the Security and Information Department, is due in Damascus before the end of this month to reach an agreement on the situation of Palestinian detainees in Syrian prisons, whose number amounts to more than 4,000 men.

The Palestinian sources, which played a prominent role in the PLO Central Council's meeting held in Baghdad recently, said President Yasir 'Arafat had informed some Palestinian leaders that any improvement in relations with Syria is conditional on the settlement of several issues, most important of which is the release of detainees.

The sources disclosed that 'Arafat has insisted that Syria should recognize the independent state of Palestine or receive him as a state president, recalling that his last visit to Damascus on the occasion of martyr Khalil al-Wazir's funeral, which took place under pressure from President Chadli Bendjedid and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, could have achieved results other than those desired if he had received a better official welcome.

The sources affirmed that a high-ranking Palestinian delegation representing all PLO factions will pay a visit to Damascus provided that the Syrian leadership agrees to release all detained Palestinians as a gesture of goodwill toward the PLO.

The sources indicated that the PLO delegation will be headed by Faruq Qaddumi, also known as Abu-al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, and will comprise Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Abu-'Ali Mustafa for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Sulayman al-Najjab for the Communist Party; and Jamal al-Surani for the independents. The sources added that the results of the delegation's meetings with the Syrian officials will determine the possibility of a visit by 'Arafat to Damascus this year. However, the sources explained that 'Arafat will make his visit conditional on a Syrian pledge not to interfere in the affairs of Palestinians and in their relations with other sides, particularly the Arabs.

The sources added that an significant portion of the PLO Central Council's meetings held in Baghdad recently centered on Palestinian-Syrian relations in light of the report submitted by Qaddumi concerning his meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' during the current UN General Assembly session in New York.

Fatah's second in command Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu-Iyad, had indicated a few days ago that the anticipated Palestinian-Syrian meeting might be different, since it is in the interest of the two sides to reach an agreement leading to tangible results within the framework of the hopes for a solution to the Lebanese crisis.

'Arafat Receives GDR, Swedish Ambassadors

JN2110212189 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1927 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received two messages; the first from Comrade Egon Krenz, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, and the second from the Swedish foreign minister. The messages were delivered when leader President Abu-'Ammar yesterday received separately in Tunis the GDR and Swedish ambassadors to Tunisia.

Leader President Abu-'Ammar reviewed with the Swedish ambassador the escalating Israeli aggressive policy against our Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the attempts to abort the peace steps in the Middle East. The meeting was attended by Dr Sami Musallam, director of leader President Abu-'Ammar's office.

Leader President Abu-'Ammar also received Comrade Manfred Stautke, GDR's ambassador in Tunis. He reviewed with him all aspects of the current developments in the Middle East, particularly the constant and growing Israeli aggression against our heroic people in the occupied territories.

'Arafat Says PLO To Reimburse Bayt Sahur Citizens

JN2110181789 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Araic 1600 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has praised the Bayt Sahur citizens' steadfastness in the face of the Zionist occupation forces' barbaric onslaught.

In statements to the press yesterday, brother Abu-'Ammar added that Israeli war minister Yitzhaq Rabin's threats to Bayt Sahur will founder on the rock of the steadfastness of the town's people, who gave a unique example of the valiant resistance, and who stressed the intifadah people's determination to pursue their intifadah, to challenge the occupation, its existence, regulations, and laws, and to confirm the people's authority.

Brother Abu-'Ammar stressed that the PLO, the intifadah people, and the Bayt Sahur citizens will continue all forms of struggle to call for regaining all the plundered possessions by all means and to stop this crazy onslaught.

Brother Abu-'Ammar also said that the PLO has decided to reimburse the Bayt Sahur citizens for all their confiscated possessions.

Palestinian National Fund Head Interviewed

PM1810155189 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 16 Oct 89 p 24

[Interview with Palestinian National Fund Chairman Juwayd al-Ghusayn by Rashid Khashanah in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Khashanah] Ideas and options are being discussed within the Israeli Labor Party regarding the possibility of initiating a dialogue with the Palestinians in an official way, and some analyses went as far as predicting that the West would wager on Rabin as a successor to Peres. Do you expect such expectations to be realized?

[Al-Ghusayn] I do not differentiate between Likud and Labor or between Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin. If they are sincere, let them openly announce their commitment to the international resolutions stipulating Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. The Israeli parties emphasize that they are desirous of Israel's security and peace. And we too have the right to seek security and peace. So what we are demanding is an open declaration that they will actually withdraw from the occupied territories, not just be ready to negotiate. And the principles which we want them to announce must stipulate the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, which the Arabs accepted at their various summits, as well as negotiation at the international conference table to settle all the other problems concerning the Palestinian issue.

[Khashanah] Is there any room for a dialogue with the Palestinians inside [the occupied territories], provided that it is planned and coordinated with the PLO leadership outside?

[Al-Ghusayn] They [not further identified] are talking about "Palestinians from inside," not the Palestinian people. What is intended is their opposition to the PLO and their refusal to deal with it for a clear reason, namely, that it represents the identity of the Palestinian people, irrespective of whether it is "terrorist" or "peaceful". These are excuses and pretexts which they fabricate in order to negotiate not with the Palestinian people as a people, but, rather, with "Palestinians," as if they are a minority, sect, or group! We for our part are talking about the Palestinian people—something which Israel, backed by the U.S. Administration, is trying to deny us.

[Khashanah] Can European efforts earnestly pressure Israel and the U.S. position, or is there a Western ceiling which cannot be exceeded?

[Al-Ghusayn] The Europeans cannot pursue a policy opposed to the U.S. Aministration's policy. All the Europeans can do is to persuade the Americans to pursue a more moderate line. But the Americans, as all know, espouse Israel both materially and politically. The U.S. position is not positive or in the Palestinian people's favor at all. It is not serious in applying the withdrawal principles endorsed by the international community, or in giving the Palestinian people their inalienable national rights, including their right to repatriation and to establish their state. So the Americans are putting pressure on the PLO in order to accept Shamir's initiative, whose prime objective is to destroy the intifadah.

[Khashanah] Has the Arab aid provided to the intifadah via the PLO and the Palestinian National Fund been sufficient to meet the kinsfolk's needs inside?

[Al-Ghusayn] The Algiers Arab summit decided to pay $128 million for the intifadah as a first payment to be followed by $43 million a month. The truth which must be told is that at the beginning none of these sums were received, then the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iraq started payment this year: the former $6 million and the latter $4 million. The United Arab Emirates [UAE] paid $10 million as one payment and UAE President Shyakh Zayid Ibn-Sultan promised $3 million a month. Kuwait committed itself to $2 million a month. And this is much less than what was decided. The brothers should have told the Palestinian people openly: This is what we can afford and this is what we cannot.

[Khashanah] What other forms of aid are provided to the intifadah outside the official aid?

[Al-Ghusayn] There is aid from people's committees at the Arab homeland level. But since these committees heard about the official sums which were decided on, namely, $128 million in cash, we have received not a single penny. And of the $43 million a month we have so far received some $15 million—which is much less than the PLO's commitments toward our kinsfolk in the occupied land.

[Khashanah] Do aid committees in Europe provide any financial support for the intifadah?

[Al-Ghusayn] The Americans provide about 29 percent of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency's budget. But an emergency budget has now been decided and their contribution to it is small. Over the past 20

months various states have provided no more than $30 million, although the budget decided on for emergencies totaled $65 million. The Arab states alone paid the major part of the sum which has already been paid ($30 million). As for the Europeans, they contributed insignificant symbolic sums. And we hope that these states will increase their aid.

PFLP's Habash Interviewed on Peace, USSR, Syria

JN2210194289 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
21 Oct 89 p 26

[Interview With George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP, by Salam Musafir in Moscow; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Musafir] We now move to the ever-burning subject, the Palestinian question. What in your opinion should be done at this stage?

[Habash] I think the first point should be the PLO's adherence to its own initiative, which is based on the need to hold an international conference as the means of attaining the national rights of the Palestinian people. The existence of many Palestinian initiatives and the PLO's dealing with the initiatives of others, especially those that ignore the international conference and our people's national rights, complicates things from the political point of view. At the outset, I think the PLO should say that in the 19th session of the Palestine National Council [PNC], we fully complied with international desires to facilitate the solution to this dilemma, which threatens world peace. The PLO leadership should stop at this point, especially since the resolutions of the 19th PNC session have won the support of the entire world except Israel and the U.S. Administration. Had the PLO stopped at this point and continued its struggle to hold the international conference, our Arab masses would not have had the confusion resulting from the existence of many initiatives. Some PLO leaders, of course, may say that when the initiative was proposed, the world responded favorably, but Israel rejected it and the U.S. Administration supported this rejection. But the question is: Do we seek to change the Israeli and U.S. positions through further concessions? My answer is a thousand times "no." There is only one way to overcome the Israeli rejection: To continue, escalate, and consolidate the intifadah and let it interact on the Arab and international levels. By doing this, we force the leaders of the Zionist enemy and the U.S. Administration to respond to the Palestinian initiative. Through this initiative, the PNC gave all that is required for a peaceful solution to the Palestine question. Had we clearly, firmly, and courageously stopped at this point, the political results would have been better than they are now. Immediately after the conclusion of the PNC session, Brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of our future Palestinian state, God willing, held a news conference in which he said that he had given everything and the ball was now in the other court. But, regrettably, he did not stop at that point. The U.S Administration put pressure on him and said the PNC resolutions were insufficient. He, therefore, held a news conference in Geneva and gave what the U.S. Administration asked for, and the gratuitous concessions continued. The natural conclusion is that the U.S. Administration feels that the stronger the pressure on the PLO and its leadership, the greater the concessions it will make. This is what prevented us from making much use of the momentum that our cause gained as a result of the intifadah and the resolutions of the 19th PNC session. We, of course, do not think that the political aspect is everything. It is a decisive factor, but in addition to determining the accurate and sound political position, we must think about all the other militant tasks needed to introduce the required changes to the balance of power. Currently, the Palestinian initiative is blocked by the Israeli and U.S. rejection. We in the PFLP have identified all the tasks that would effect the desirable change in the balance of power. These tasks, however, are not on the table of our front only, but on the table of those involved with national Palestinian action overall.

The first task is to continue the intifadah regardless of the difficulties and the sacrifices that our people offer inside the occupied territories. If the intifadah stops, God forbid, even our friends will no longer pay attention to us. Therefore, our first task is to continue the intifadah, the precious jewel and the pride of our national and pan-Arab struggle. To continue the intifadah, we have to raise a slogan to entrench it, because the enemy is doing the impossible to quell it. By entrenching the intifadah, I mean that the Unified National Leadership and the national leadership in every city, town, village, quarter, and street should try to strengthen it and that this overall leadership should be supported by honest health and agricultural popular committees so that all the Palestinian masses be involved in the intifadah.

When these masses continue their daily struggle against the enemy, we will be completely reassured that the intifadah will not stop until its achieves its goals. Throughout history no occupation has been able to annihilate an entire nation. We want to reach this point. This is what we mean by entrenching. We are on our way toward this goal. But we are still halfway there. We want a comprehensive and effective mobilization. A week ago, Rabin said that the intifadah cannot be destroyed by military force, that it uses thousands to take action, and that the Palestinian masses rally around these thousands. We take pride in this fact. But we have to complete the process of entrenchment to start a comprehensive fire. We also have to raise the slogan of escalation. By this I mean an increase in the enemy's economic and human losses.

Failing to quell the intifadah, the enemy said it would coexist with the intifadah. In other words, the enemy says there is no way other than getting used to the intifadah. This is what troubles the Zionists. We have to step up the intifadah to increase the enemy's losses so that it can no longer coexist with the intifadah. We are moving toward this goal. For the first time in 2 years,

there has been no growth in Israeli national production. The occupation has become very costly to the enemy, when it once gained from it. We hope that our masses in territorioes occupied in 1948 will participate in our masses' intifadah in Gaza and the West Bank. The Zionist enemy fears such a possibility.

If we guarantee the continuation of the intifadah, the enemy may find itself compelled to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of our people as well as Palestinian national rights. In addition, Palestinians outside the occupied territories and the Arab liberation movements are also carrying out their duties. Regrettably, the Arab regimes have not yet carried out their full duties. All this will force the enemy to deal with the PLO and the Palestinian national rights. Even the U.S. position may change if we do something that can change it. Here I will refer to two points: The first is to notify the United States that the continuation of the intifadfah will shake U.S. pillars in the region. The United States will seriously consider this possibility. The PLO should pressure the Arab regimes into carrying out their political duties and also should get the Arab liberation movements to carry out their duties. Undoubtedly, all this will make the U.S. Administration retreat. The second is to deal with U.S. public opinion. Our Palestinian community in the United States numbers 125,000, in addition to hundreds of thousands of Arabs there. We have to master the task of explaining our just cause to U.S. opinion so that we can make the Palestine question an issue in the U.S. presidential elections. Yes, there is a long way to go, but we have no other way. I wish the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital today rather than tomorrow. But wishes are something and sound, accurate scientific thinking is another.

[Musafir] In view of the perestroyka currently taking place in the Soviet Union and its impact worldwide, how do you view the constants and changes in the Soviet Union's Middle East policy? What are the constants and what are the changes in this policy?

[Habash] As the Soviet comrades have told us, the constants are the following: the need for a complete withdrawal from the territories Israel occupied in 1967, not only the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but also all the other territories such as the Golan Heights and other territories. If we want to be fair, this constant has not changed in spite of all that is being reported or rumored about Soviet policy toward Arab causes at this stage. Another constant is the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. This means the attainment of a just solution to the Palestinian cause, given the fact that it is the crux of the Middle East conflict. The third constant is Israel's right to exist within secure borders. Over the past years, a fourth constant has been introduced, that of the international conference as the mechanism for attaining such a settlement.

I am fully convinced that these constants have not changed. There are some changes that the Soviet comrades say come under the heading of tactical flexibility with firmness of constants. An example of this is the matter of relations with Israel. However, these relations have not reached the point of exchanging ambassadors. In any case, there are some changes. Some changes have taken place with respect to the possibility of taking tactical steps that will facilitate the convocation of an international conference, such as Shevardnadze's proposals in Cairo, or the readiness to host a delegation from the PLO and Israel for preparatory talks for the international conference. There is also the position on the question of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, which is still fluctuating. We are now experiencing the seriousness of this issue, as well as its impact on our national cause, as we did in the seventies. If we want to judge the Soviet Union's position with fairness, we must pinpoint the constants which I personally feel that the Soviet Union has never budged from. By these constants, I mean the four I have mentioned. In spite of all the remarks we have on the Soviet Union's policy toward our cause, we must always realize that the Soviet Union is our principal international ally and that the U.S. Administration is our principal international enemy. We must not confuse the two.

[Musafir] How do you view the future of the normalization of Syrian-Palestinian relations?

[Habash] This matter is very clear. The interest of the Palestinian revolution, the Syrian regime, and the Arabs in confronting the Zionist entity dictates the normalization of relations as the first step to resuming and consolidating the alliance between Syria and the PLO. Why has this not taken place yet, in spite of the possibility of the resumption of these relations as has been reported in the news? The answer is that there are Palestinian and Syrian parties which do not want to enhance this alliance, or to normalize relations. With respect to the Palestinian side, these parties fear that the resumption of relations with Syria would restrict their political moves, not to mention many other reasons, such as their eagerness to maintain certain Arab alliances and their fear of losing facilities provided to them by some Arab parties.

There are also official Syrian circles that do not want the normalization or the promotion of the Syrian-Palestinian relations. The reason is that these official Syrian circles have a different view of the Palestinian revolution's role in confronting the Zionist enemy. They view this role in the context of military strategic parity regardless of the significance of popular and politicial struggle, and regardless of the significance of other acts of violence. Some of these circles go far beyond this. They believe that an alliance between them and the Palestinian revolution gives them an additional burden in confronting the enemy. In addition to this, there is also the Lebanese issue. Our experience since 1976 has proved that Syria adopts its own position toward the armed Palestinian presence in the Lebanese arena. And now, there is a conflict among the forces that support the

normalization of relations and the forces that work implicitly to foil such an objective. Of course, the force of logic behind the call for normalization of relations does not allow those elements who oppose normalization—whether on the Palestinian or the Syrian side—to speak openly and frankly about their true positions. However, these elements can find a thousand ways to obstruct this task. For example, it is natural that in order to facilitate the process of normalizing relations, Palestinian prisoners who have been detained in Syria for several years should be released. These detainees have nothing to do with acts of sabotage or other felonies. They are strugglers in the ranks of the Palestinian revolutions' factions. The normalization of relations requires that these detainees be released. The forces that do not support normalization can find a way to hamper the release of the detainees, so, in response to this, those Palestinians that do not want normalization adopt a counter-position. From this premise we say that despite all international, Arab, and Palestinian efforts, and despite what was recently said to the effect that the restoration of relations is near, discussions are still taking place. We in the PFLP view this issue with great responsibility, and believe that national and pan-Arab interests require the bolstering of the Syrian-Palestinian alliance as soon as possible.

[Musafir] You have called several times for democratic reforms in the PLO. What are the main features of this reform?

[Habash] I would like to say that our view of democratic reforms is different from what it was before the intifadah. The intifadah imposes on us the process of democratic reforms in all the Palestinian revolution's institutions, particularly the PLO Executive Committee, the PNC, the offices, and other institutions. Our people's blood is being shed in the homeland, and this blood necessitates that we extend all forms of political, media, military, financial, and material support to our people. The achievement of the objectives of the intifadah depends on the tasks that I have mentioned in my answer to another question, but it also depends on the level of support extended by our people outside [the occupied territories]. Is it not one of our basic duties to secure the material support that enables our people to resist the policy of starvation? Cannot the Palestinian masses outside play a clear and great role in this regard? Is it not the duty of the Palestinians outside to express their support for the intifadah by all means and at all times? What prevents this? What prevents 125 thousand Palestinians in the United States from playing an effective role in this regard? What prevents our Palestinian masses in the Arab countries from playing their role? The answer is that in order to do this we need an effective and capable tool to mobilize the Palestinian masses. This tool is the PLO. So, why is the PLO not carrying out its duty? The answer is that there are disorders and diseases in its institutions. In light of this, we call strongly for deep democratic reforms in the PLO's institutions. We will struggle for reforming its institutions.

Egypt

'Arafat, Delegation Arrive on Official Visit

'Arafat, Salah Khalaf Arrive

NC2210123889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1221 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived in Cairo this afternoon. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo; and Jamal al-Surani, PLO Executive Committee member, received him. He is accompanied by Salah Khalaf—Abu-Iyad—Fatah Central Committee member; and Akram Haniyah, PLO Executive Committee member.

'Arafat Makes Statement

JN2210173689 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived in Cairo today on a 1-day visit to Egypt for talks with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the developments of peace efforts in the Middle East. Upon arrival, Brother Yasir 'Arafat said his visit to Cairo is part of continuing consultations and joint Palestinian-Egyptian action, especially concerning current developments in both the region and the Palestine question. Brother 'Arafat added that he will inform the Egyptian president about developments in the recent PLO Central Council meetings in Baghdad; about developments in the occupied territories; and about political developments in the Palestine question on the Arab and international levels.

'Abd-al-Majid, 'Arafat Confer

NC2210162989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1556 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held a 1-hour meeting today, during which they reviewed the latest developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas regarding the peace efforts.

Also attending the meeting were: Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; members of the Palestinian delegation, including Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, member of the Fatah Movement's Central Committee; Jamal al-Surani, secretary of the PLO Executive Committee; Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo; Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah Movement representative and PLO charge d'affaires in Cairo; and Akram Haniyah, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Mubarak Receives 'Arafat

NC2210163789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1604 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at the Presidential Palace this evening.

On the Egyptian side, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, attended the meeting.

Also present on the Palestinian side were Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad; Jamal al-Surani, member of the PLO Executive Committee; and Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo.

Talks To Continue 23 Oct

NC2210172689 Cairo MENA in English 1716 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct 22 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat will hold a session of talks tomorrow to resume their discussions [from] this evening, a presidential source told MENA. The source said the two leaders discussed over 2 hours tonight the latest Palestinian developments at the regional and international levels.

'Abd-al-Majid Comments on Baker Telephone Call

NC2210202489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that the phone call he received from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at some time in the past 3 days was part of the U.S. effort to give momentum to the peace process and to overcome the current obstacles.

'Abd-al-Majid affirmed that Egypt is pursuing its efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace in the region.

Butrus Ghali Meets Visiting Soviet Official

NC2210162089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with the deputy director of planning at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, who is currently visiting Cairo. They reviewed African issues in light of Egypt's efforts to settle African disputes.

The Soviet official expressed his country's support for President Husni Mubarak's efforts in this area.

Defense Minister Addresses Navy Day Ceremony

NC2210175689 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Excerpt] General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production, has affirmed Egypt's international obligation to secure freedom of shipping in the Suez Canal. He said that the Egyptian Navy's role in this regard is not limited to the protection of shipping in the canal only, but also covers the Mediterranean and Red Seas. He praised the Navy's magnificent role in this respect and in other national commitments.

He said Egypt is eager to supply its Navy with the latest weapons and equipment.

General Abu-Talib made these remarks while addressing a ceremony marking Navy Day, which was held at the Alexandria Naval Base today.

He conveyed the greetings of President Husni Mubarak, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, to the Navy on its victory day, which coincides with the anniversary of the destruction of the Israeli destroyer "Elat" by an Egyptian naval unit, as a prelude to the October 1973 victory. He praised the Navy's noble traits in this respect and lauded the Navy's role in the October victory and the protection of Bab El Mandeb. [passage omitted]

Minister Comments on Talks With World Bank, IMF

NC2210211189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1402 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—A new session of preliminary talks between Egypt and the visiting World Bank delegation, led by Dr Maurice (Bachman), director of the bank's Middle East operations, opened in Cairo today.

Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, headed Egypt's delegation to the talks, which are to last 2 weeks. Dr Makramallah said that the conferees will discuss the financial aid Egypt needs from the World Bank in the coming years to finance economic reform measures and to gradually offset the state's general budget and the balance of payments.

He added that the conferees will also review aspects of the economic reform measures implemented in recent years as well as measures planned for the coming years.

He pointed out that these talks will be followed by another round of negotiations early next year to agree on the details and timetable of the financial assistance.

Dr Makramallah noted that Egypt's talks with the World Bank aim to review the whole economic situation, especially the continuation of the national economic growth, increase in production and job opportunities, the increase of the public and private sectors' performance, revival of competition in the national economy, enhancing potential to win foreign markets, and increase of exports.

He affirmed that all of this takes place from Egypt's full sovereignty over the country's economic policy without [word indistinct] with the limited-income groups.

He said that Egypt's talks with the World Bank are taking place simultaneously with its talks with the IMF with a view to rescheduling foreign debts and procuring Egypt's foreign currency requirements in the forthcoming stage.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu Arrives in Cairo

NC2310065289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, South Africa's Nobel Prize winner, arrived in Cairo tonight for a 3-day visit to Egypt.

President Husni Mubarak is scheduled to meet with Archbishop Tutu in his capacity as envoy of the strugglers in South Africa.

During his visit to Egypt, Archbishop Tutu will hold talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and churchmen in Egypt. After his visit to Egypt, Archbishop Tutu will go to Khartoum for a visit to Sudan.

Upon his arrival in Cairo, Archbishop Tutu said that among the most important matters he will discuss with Egyptian officials are the issues of liberation in South Africa and the Middle East and the Palestinian issue.

Archbishop Tutu praised the important and serious role which President Mubarak is playing in these matters. He said: We appreciate President Mubarak's constructive efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as well as his efforts to restore normal relations between Egypt and Libya.

Dr Hasan Jad-al-Haq, director of the African Department in the Foreign Ministry, received Archbishop Tutu at Cairo Airport.

Jewish Secular Center Head Arrives on Visit

NC2210211889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1821 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—David (Soskand), head of the Jewish Secular Center, his wife, and Mrs Vivian Titil, chief editor of the Belgian magazine (RIGARD), have arrived in Cairo from Brussels for a 3-day visit to Egypt.

During their stay in Cairo, they will meet with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and visit some scientific agencies.

Dailies Urge Continued U.S. Peace Efforts

NC2210095089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0646 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—The Sunday editorials in the Egyptian papers concentrate on the peace efforts in the Middle East and the positions of the various parties involved in the conflict on how to set the process in motion. AL-AHRAM says that the PLO's Central Council resolutions passed in Baghdad reasserted the positive developments of the Palestinian stand since the Palestine National Council's resolutions and the peace initiative. AL-AHRAM e \phasizes that the Palestinian plan for a dialogue is considered to be an extremely important contribution. It sets forth specific proposals without rejecting the plans and points put forward.

AL-AHRAM says: Now that there are Egyptian, U.S., and Palestinian papers, in addition to the Israeli paper which contains nothing but rejection of most of these proposals, the situation has become (?clear) regarding the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. Every party and the regional and international public can now judge the seriousness of the other parties.

AL-AKHBAR says that the land for peace principle must be the essential basis for any talks or meetings designed to achieve peace in the Middle East. It asserts that the rejection of this principle by any party will certainly put an end to any negotations before they start. It notes that if this principle is ignored, any negotiations will lack the main goal of any meeting to settle the Palestinian-Israeli dispute and talks on other marginal issues will be a mere obstacle and a waste of time. AL-AKHBAR stresses that Tel Aviv's acceptance of this principle must first be obtained, because other issues will merely be formalities and procedures on which it is possible to reach agreement one way or another.

AL-JUMHURIYAH states that knowledgeable sources in the U.S. Administration have asserted that Secretary of State James Baker intends to give up his efforts to hold an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. This will no doubt constitute a setback to the peace efforts, AL-JUMHURIYAH says, particularly in view of the international conviction that there is a need for this dialogue. Certain members of the Israeli Cabinet are also convinced of this need. The paper notes that Baker has been patient in his dealing with Israel but, at the same time, he declined to alter the framework of his five points, the details of which have been unofficially leaked.

AL-JUMHURIYAH expresses its belief that a confrontation between the Israeli Government and the U.S. Administration is certainly coming. If Israeli Prime Minister Shamir has to date succeeded in impeding the peace process, he will have to adopt a position when he visits Washington next month. AL-JUMHURIYAH asserts that Shamir is wrong to believe that further negative positions will enable him to continue the occupation of the Palestinian territory, because the Palestinian and Arab struggle in the battle of peace backed by right and might of the heroic intifidah [sentence incomplete as received]. The paper calls on Shamir to read some history to learn how weak his position is.

Editorial Raps U.S. Statements on Mideast Peace

JN2210111289 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 20 Oct 89 p 6

[Editorial: "Strange Stands and Even Stranger Statements]

[Text] The spokeswoman for the U.S. State Department said yesterday that the Palestinians are going to have to find a way to respond positively and to pursue the peace process realistically. This is a strange statement addressed to the party to which injustice has been done, that has demonstrated a desire for peaceful coexistence as well as a readiness to relinquish many of its previous stands. This desire and readiness on the part of this party has stunned friend and foe alike. This oppressed party demonstrated this desire and readiness to remove any obstacles standing in the way of regaining the occupied territories.

The statement made by the U.S. State Department spokeswoman appears to be advice by Washington to the Palestinian side to accept the so-called Israeli peace initiative proposed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in the form of a proposal calling for holding elections in the occupied Palestinian territories to elect a negotiating team acceptable to him to conduct negotiations with this team on the future of the occupied territories; nay, on the limited self-rule envisaged by Tel Aviv.

What adds insult to injury is that this U.S. stand was voiced when Shamir was unequivocally and adamantly stating that he will never give up the West Bank and Gaza Strip even if this were to lead to a dispute with the United States. This tells us something about the true intentions behind Shamir's proposals and hammers the last nail in the coffin of his pretensions on his alleged desire for peace which he refuses to trade for land.

Against the background of this ironic Israeli threat, a White House spokesman said that President George Bush informed Shamir that the objective behind the current U.S. contacts is to implement the latter's proposals for elections in the occupied Palestinian territories and that Washington backs and supports Israel in this regard.

Has the world, at any moment in history, seen such disparity and conflict in the stands voiced and the statements made by a superpower which is attempting to convince us that it is sincerely playing its role as a partner in the Middle East peace process, and that it does not tilt in favor of any party?

Editorial Criticizes Israel's Rejection of Plans

JN2110164589 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 19 Oct 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Retrogression"]

[Text] Israel has been well known for its constant call for bilateral talks with the parties involved in the Middle East issue, avoiding any international meeting or conference, and demanding that such talks be open; that is, without conditions or prior topics of discussion.

However, when it faced the recent positive developments of the issue, beginning with the 10 Egyptian points and the proposal to hold a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo to discuss the requisites to implement Shamir's plan for elections in the occupied territories, it insisted that any dialogue or bilateral talks, regardless of any presented proposal, should be confined to the plan as it is without any amendment and without giving any chance to discuss other issues under any formula. This means that it has gone back on the "principle" to which it adhered for many years; that is, bilateral talks with any party should be open and without preconditions.

Thus, the Egyptian proposal was rejected at the Inner Cabinet meeting. The U.S. five-point proposal, which stemmed from the 10 Egyptian points but was not a substitute for them, was also rejected by Shamir because it stated that the election plan should be the topic of the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue without ruling out the possibility of raising other issues with the Palestinian side.

Israel did not only shut the door for bilateral talks without preconditions—a door it itself opened sometime ago—but also shut every window through which any suggestion, plan, or initiative to hold dialogue with other sides and in which there is the least likelihood of a dialogue with the PLO, could enter. This means that it aims to block any avenue that may eventually lead to dealing with the PLO, even if the dealing is with Palestinian personalities acceptable to the PLO. It rather seeks to block all avenues of contact to resolve the issue and tries to take everything into its hands, making itself the sole party entitled to choose the plan, time, venue, persons, and the method, while continuing to occupy land, commit massacres, and reject the least signs of dissatisfaction, renunciation, and condemnation from any side, even if it comes from Washington or the United Nations.

It is no secret that this strange adherence to categorical rejection is intended to make others despair of any practical opportunity to negotiate, and consequently, to force them, particularly the Palestinians, to reject and perhaps renounce present moderate stands in favor of more intransigent ones in order to justify any new harsher measures against the intifadah and to blacklist the PLO internationally and portray it as the intransigent side.

Abolition of Subsidies 'Firmly' Rejected

NC2310111089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Oct 89

[From the "Listeners Questions" program]

[Text] To listener Isma'il Husayn Mustafa from Cairo: The IMF is calling on Egypt to implement several measures. Among these is: increasing energy prices; setting prices of goods produced by the public sector at levels that cover the production costs of these goods; abolishing price controls; freezing the salaries of government and public sector employees; and gradually reducing subsidies in preparation for abolishing them. The Egyptian Government firmly rejects any measure interfering with the standard of living of the limited-income groups, which is the case where subsidies are concerned.

Communist Group Uncovered; 13 Arrested, Tortured

JN2110172889 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 19 Oct 89 p 1

[Text] The State Investigation Department in al-Gharbiyah Governorate has uncovered a new communist group in al-Mahallah al-Kubra. On 16 October, some 13 citizens were arrested and severely tortured at the Investigation Department building in Tanta with the intent of forcing them to admit their affiliation with a communist organization hostile to the regime.

Czechoslovak Government Extends Loan to Egypt

JN2310104089 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 23 Oct 89 p 1

[Text] The Czechoslovak Government has agreed to extend to Egypt an easy term loan of $23.3 million to finance the foreign imports for the project to establish 20 big water stations in the provincial cities. The total cost of the project is 160 million Egyptian pounds. Engineer Muhammad Khalid Mustafa, chairman of the National Water and Sanitary Sewage Authority, said that this loan will be repaid in 8 years including 1-year grace period at 5 pc cent interest, provided that the building of all stations is completed within 2 years.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Al-Humaydi After Tour

LD2010171289 Tripoli JANA in English 0832 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 20, (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—The leader of the revolution yesterday received Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi following the conclusion of his unionist working tour of the Arab countries, upon the instructions of the leader of the revolution with the aim to lay down a united Arab strategy to confront all imperialist and Zionist challenges facing the Arab nation.

Major al-Khuwaylidi informed the leader of the revolution of the total support for the Arab presidents, kings and emirs for the contents of the nationalist letter of the leader, their high appreciation for the stances of the leader of the revolution and his militant and revolutionary role towards the Arab national issues, his continuous instigation for the realisation of the Arab nation's unity, their assertion of the nationalist idea contained in the letter of the leader of the revolution, its comprehensive nature and its unionist strategic dimensions in all its items.

Also, Major al-Khuwaylidi informed the leader of the revolution that Arab presidents, kings and emirs reaffirmed the need for an urgent need for laying down a strategic Arab working plan so as to implement the proposals contained in the leader's letter...and the call for the importaqnce of common Arab action, enhancing arab solidarity at this particular stage the Arab nation is going through and that they lauded all points raised by the leader of the revolution in his historic speech before ths summit conference of the Nonaligned Movement asserting that the leader expressed the sentiments and feelings of all Arabs towards the issues he mentioned daringly and courageously and the political analysis of the international position.

Source Denies Presence of Troops in Somalia

LD2210122889 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Oct (JANA)—An official source at the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has stated that the rumors disseminated by some media quarters alleging that Libyan forces or arms are being sent to Somalia are absolutely untrue.

The source stressed that these rumors are unfounded and that the Great Jamahiriyah is committed to its firm policy based on noninterference in the affairs of other countries or meddling in their international conficts.

Transport, Communications Strike Ordered

LD2210140389 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1322 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Oct (JANA)—Sources at the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport have said that all local and international flights of all working airliners will be suspended at all the airports of the Great Jamahiriyah. All international telephone and telegraph communications will also be suspended as of early morning on Thursday, 26 October, to express the sorrow and grief of this sad anniversary and the painful effects of the practices of Italian colonialism against the Libyan Arab people.

Work and traffic will be stopped at all the municipalities of the Great Jamahiriyah at precisely 1200 next Thursday [26 October] the day of mourning, and the surat al-fatihah [opening chapter of the Koran] will be recited as a plea of mercy for the souls of those exiled and deported during the Italian colonialist invasion of the Libyan Arab territories.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Denies Reports Al-Mahdi Tortured

EA2110153989 Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Oct—Leader of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), Gen 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, has denied the reports saying the security tortured former premier Sadiq al-Mahdi. Al-Bashir told [word indistinct] (?daily) AL-INGADH AL-HADITH [as received, the correct name of the paper is AL-INGADH AL-WATANI] that the investigation committee did not summon Al-Mahdi till now. He added that Al-Mahdi was summoned by the security because of the hostile activities carried out by some members of the dissolved Ummah Party. Security information says these activities are directed by Al-Mahdi from Kawbar Prison, he said. He added that Al-Mahdi was interrogated on this matter but he was not tortured.

Extends Cease-Fire in South

NC2110140489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council in Sudan, has announced the Sudanese Government's decision to extend the cease-fire in southern Sudan for another month.

In a political speech addressed to the Sudanese people at the closing session of the national dialogue conference this morning, Al-Bashir underlined the revolution's call to the movement led by Garang to reach out for peace and dialogue instead of war and fighting. Lt-Gen al-Bashir said the recommendations of the national dialogue conference, which underscore the unity of Sudan and coexistence among the various factions of the Sudanese people, are the best gift to the Sudanese people on the occasion of the glorious October anniversary.

Declares 1-Month Cease-Fire

AB2110174589 Khartoum SUNA in English 1620 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] [Dateline indistinct]—Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, has declared a month's cease-fire as from today to pave the way for dialogue with the rebel SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] of Colonel John Garang. Al-Bashir, who addressed here today the final session of the national dialogue conference on peace, has urged the southern rebels to work for peace instead of waging war.

"The government will welcome the (SPLA) delegation in Khartoum for (?holding) talks and negotiations on the question of peace."

Appeals to Rebels for Talks

EA2110194489 Khartoum SUNA in English 1625 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 2 October—Command Council Chairman General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir today (?appealed) to the rebel movement of John Garang to join the march for peace in the country.

In a speech marking the end of the 40 [-day] long national dialogue on peace Saturday, Gen al-Bashir said the revolution has come in peace and for peace "and will proceed ahead in the realisation of peace and will take a road that leads to peace".

Al-Bashir said the government declares another month of cease-fire in the country so as "to facilitate and secure an atmosphere of dialogue for peace, and renew our confirmed commitment for peace".

Gen al-Bashir said every guarantee will be given to representatives from the rebel movement to (?come) to the Sudan and conduct a serious (?round) of peace talks.

"[Words indistinct] urge the Garang movement not to defer peace or procrastinate."

Al-Bashir said the revolution "appeals to Garang's movement not to delay in joining the march towards peace, for peace is the will of the nation which shall never be defeated regardless of the obstacles that it may encounter."

Gen al-Bashir told the gathering at the end of the final session of the national conference on peace issues today, that the revolution will "put its hand in those of any dedicated and honest compatriot who gives precedence to the interests of the country over any other interests".

Al-Bashir said the recommendations of the conference will be the guide to the revolution in its quest for peace realisation in the country.

Gen al-Bashir has meanwhile thanked the Sudanese patriots who have taken part during almost 40 days in the national dialogue conference so as to reach a consensus with regard to peace in the Sudan.

During the conference the final recommendations of the conference were presented to the chairman of the Command Council, Gen 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir. The final recommendations have among other things called for the establishment of a federal government in the Sudan and that the president and his vice should be freely elected in a universal referendum.

The recommendations, although stating that Islam and the Sudanese customs are the sources of legislation in the country, have (?put) it clearly that any state within the federal system can (?exempt) from any law of a religious nature.

The recommendations have also called for the rehabilitation of the war-affected areas in the Sudan and that more attention be given to less developed areas in the country. They also called for freedom of belief and da'wa (Islamic call) preaching in the country. They recommended that no group should be denied the right of practising its own belief within the unified Sudan. It said Sudan is for all Sudanese regardless of their Arab or African origin and that Sudan is the home of all Sudanese people.

National Dialogue Meeting Issues Recommendations

NC2110153989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Oct (MENA)—The conference for national dialogue, which has been in session for 1 and ½ months, issued its recommendations and resolutions here today in a massive rally that was attended by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC].

The conference's final report, which was submitted to Lt-Gen al-Bashir during the ceremony, recommended federal rule as the closest model suitable for Sudan's conditions and suggested that the Shura [consultations] be the basis of rule.

The conferees demanded that the federal president and vice president be elected by the Sudanese people in a direct free vote and called for the establishment of a single legislative body whose members will be elected from each Sudanese province in proportion to its population. The report gave the president the power to choose the members of the federal executive body, with approval by the federal legislative body.

Regarding the judiciary, the report advised that a supreme federal court be set up whose members shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of the federal constitution.

The report recommended that the president be the supreme commander of the armed force and that independent judicial, executive, and legislative councils be set up in each state (region) under the jursdiction of this state's local governing body. The report also called for issuing a federal political charter setting the rules and norms for federal rule.

With a view to increasing national income equally distributed among the people, the report recommended that an overll socioeconomic plan be laid down to upgrade the country's living standards in general, bridge the gap among the regions, and divide the national income among the regions in proportion to their population.

The report underscored petroleum and mining projects as a national wealth, adding that the federal state must

ensure that part of the revenues of such wealth be given to the less developed regions. The report called on the state to encourage national and foreign investment.

The report indicated that outside interference and foreign pressure had a great effect in creating the problem of the south, particularly the interference by some neighboring countries and Israel and their supply of arms and material support to the rebels.

The reported noted that the pre-independence British administration played a role in separating the north from the south and in preventing the spread of the Arabic language and Islam in southern Sudan.

On the economic and social consequences of the war, the report affirms that the war resulted in the martyrdom of 4,593 members of the Armed Forces and 27,000 rebels. Also 259,000 male and female civilians starved to death during the war.

Regarding the economic effects, the report notes that the country's losses as a result of the interruption of investment in agriculture amounted to approximately 3 billion pounds from 1986 to 1989. The excavation of the Jonglei Canal, which cost the country approximately $300 million, was suspended. This is in addition to the enormous losses incurred by improper exploitation of the Nile waters. Seven million heads of livestock were lost.

The report pointed out that the state loses 2.4 billion pounds annually in the form of war expenditure in the south, equivalent to 11 million pounds daily. This has caused the national economy to deteriorate.

The report said that 500,000 Sudanese citizens have fled to neighboring countries and that 3.5 million others left the southern part of the homeland for the northern regions, particularly Khartoum.

The MENA correspondent has learned that the RCC will begin preparations for a conference for the support of the south in addition to another conference that will be devoted to discussing the problem of vagrancy in the national capital, Khartoum. Furthermore, technical teams will be formed to reconstruct and develop the areas affected by the war in southern Sudan.

It has also been learned that delegations will be sent to all Arab, African, and friendly countries with messages from Lt Gen al-Bashir to the presidents and kings of these countries. The messages will contain the final report of the national dialogue conference. The conference's report and recommendations will also be conveyed to all international organizations.

Ends Deliberations

EA2110195789 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 21 October—The National Dialogue Conference on Peace today ended its deliberations and was addressed by General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Command Council chairman.

The conference's recommendations have dwelt among other issues on religion, identity, form of government, share of power, and effects of war in the country. The recommendations said Arabism and Africanism are two major factors of the Sudanese identity and that they boost Sudan's stand in both Arab and African arenas. The recommendations have stressed that freedom of belief should be guaranteed to all and every Sudanese there. They also stipulate that Islam and Sudanese customs be the sources for legislation in the country and that freedom of practice, da'wa and preaching be secured to citizens.

They said a state within the federal system can exempt itself from any laws with religious colour.

Al-Bashir on Egyptian 'Contacts' With SPLA

EA2210163589 Khartoum SUNA in English 1600 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 21 October—The chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, RCC, General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, has declared that Egypt is carrying contacts with the rebel SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] leader, Colonel John Garang, with the aim of serving the question of peace in Sudan.

Al-Bashir, who was interviewed by the daily "AL-INQADH AL-HADITH" [as received] [word indistinct] said that Egypt has signed a trade protocol with Sudan following the eruption of the revolution last 30 June. "It is a huge protocol since Egypt had frozen trade protocols with (?the previous) government," he added.

Meanwhile, Al-Bashir announced that some Sudanese delegations will visit shortly the (?African) countries to explain the steps taken by the government for achieving peace in the south.

Al-Bashir Denies Planning Deal With Parties

EA2110154589 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Oct (SUNA)—The chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Council, NSRC, Gen 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, has ruled out the government's intention to reach a national reconciliation with political parties in Sudan. Al-Bashir told the daily AL-INGADH AL-HADITH [as received; AL-INGADH AL-HADITH is a confusion of two different papers: AL-INGADH AL-WATANI and AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH] that there is no tendency to talk with leaders of Sudanese political parties before the end of the current investigation carried out with them. The chairman of the NSRC described the speech of a national reconciliation as a rumour aiming to put the revolution in a defensive position.

President Al-Bashir Announces Prisoner Release

EA1910155789 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1950 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Excerpt] The president of the NSRCC [National Salvation Revolution Command Council] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmed al-Basir issued a decree for the release of 174 prisoners on the occasion of the October revolution. [passage omitted]

SPLA Radio on Garang Tour, Objectives

EA1810202789 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 18 Oct 89

[SPLA press release on Garang's visit to southern Africa and other issues]

[Excerpts] 1. Summary of the tour: the chairman and commander in chief of the SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army], Dr John Garang de Mabior, left the Sudan on 20th September 1989 to start a 3-week tour of southern Africa that ended on 12 October 1989. The visit covered six countries, namely Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, Mozambique, and Tanzania. [passage omitted]

The chairman's tour of the Frontline States was very successful. It is clear that the SPLM/SPLA leader's visit to southern Africa was very successful as indicated by the level of reception, the public functions such as university lectures, and the wide media coverage in all the countries.

The spectacular red-carpet treatment accorded to Dr John Garang in all the six countries is consistent with the usual African hospitality and the SPLM/SPLA takes the opportunity to thank Presidents Mugabe, Kaunda, Banda, Masire, Chissano, and Mwinyi and the people of southern Africa for their brotherly warm and red-carpet reception accorded Dr John.

The reception that Dr John has received in southern Africa is a major diplomatic victory for the movement and underlines the fact that the SPLM/SPLA enjoys much better credibility and support than General Al-Bashir's 3-month military junta, both domestically in the Sudan and internationally in Africa.

The purpose of the chairman's visit to southern Africa: the visit of the SPLM/SPLA chairman to southern Africa centers on two issues:

A: To explain to the heads of state and people of southern Africa the reasons that led to the war, and the objectives of the SPLM/SPLA. The Sudan has been at war within itself for 23 years of independence. Obviously something must be fundamentally wrong.

The governments that have come and gone in Khartoum have failed to evolve a Sudanese national entity, a social-political entity to which all citizens identify and pledge undivided allegiance irrespective of race, religion, tribe or region. Failing to do this, all Khartoum governments to date have based their rule on sectarianism, racial, religious, or family dynasty. Whether military of civilian, all Khartoum governments have been sectarian dictatorships, and it is this that has led to instability and wars. It is these circumstances of sectarian injustice that the SPLM/SPLA has come to put to an end, and to evolve a new united democratic Sudan of justice, human dignity, progress, prosperity, and equality for all Sudanese, irrespective of race, religion, family, sex, tribe or region. Such a new Sudan can be realized only within the context of a new social-political entity that concretizes these ideals in its basis.

There are thus two systems and two leaderships in the Sudan: one, the SPLM/SPLA, representing the new united democratic Sudan in formation, and the other the Al-Bashir military junta, representing the dying old Sudan of military or civilian sectarian dictatorships, racism, religious fundamentalism and sectarianism. Obviously peace cannot be achieved within the parameters of the old Sudan. The old Sudan has landed us in 23 years of war out of 33 years of independence, and it cannot be expected to do any better under Al-Bashir. Peace can only be achieved within the context of a new united democratic Sudan.

All the heads of state met by Dr Garang greatly appreciated the SPLM/SPLA's stand on unity and a democratic Sudan.

B: The second reason for the visit was for Dr Garang to ask the heads of state to use their diplomatic and other channels to impress on the government of the day in Khartoum to see the necessity for a new united democratic Sudan, and to accept the SPLM/SPLA peace program.

The SPLM/SPLA peace program is in four points as follows:
(a) Formation of a broad-based government of national unity and for realization of the new Sudan. This will be formed by the two warring armies—the SPLA and Sudan's current regular Army—nonsectarian political parties that believe in democracy, and the trade union alliance.
(b) Formation of a new army that will be consistent with, and can defend, the government of the new Sudan. This new army for the new Sudan will be drawn from the SPLA and the army of the old Sudan.
(c) Convening of the national constitutional conference to debate and resolve Sudan's fundamental problems and draft a permanent constitution for the new united democratic Sudan.
(d) Preparing and holding of free general elections, formation of a democratic government based on those elections, and the ratification of the draft constitution by the new national assembly—parliament.

General Al-Bashir's military junta is essentially the NIF [National Islamic Front] in military uniform; it is Islamic fundamentalist. The present government in

Khartoum is Muslim fundamentalist. If this were not the case, Brigadier al-Bashir would have removed Numayri's September 1983 Shari'ah Islamic laws from the statute book. When the junta took power on 30 June, they announced the suspension of the Constitution, but curiously they picked one item from that Constitution—Numayri's Shari'ah laws—for discussion with the SPLM/SPLA. Does this not smell of Islamic fundamentalism, irrespective of whatever perfume is used to camouflage it?

The Al-Bashir government has taken the following action that confirm it is Islamic fundamentalist:
(a) They have announced that Numayri's Islamic Shari'ah laws will be taken for a referendum when they know the outcome. The Sudan is about 70 percent Muslim, and nobody is expected to vote against his or her religion. Nonfundamentalist African states with even larger Muslim majorities, such as Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Senegal, Mali, Niger, and Somalia have not taken this course of action. A referendum on Shari'ah has for long been a main slogan of the NIF. By definition Shari'ah is God's law, and it is absurd to take God's law for human judgment in a referendum. The SPLM/SPLA rejects taking the September laws to a referendum. They were decreed by Numayri in 1983, and they can be abrogated only by another decree.
(b) The junta has dismissed 57 judges that they consider secular, and replaced them with Islamic judges. Another 63 judges are due for dismissal. More than 90 medical doctors are due for dismissal on the same grounds. The minister of health has threatened to resign, and there is a [word indistinct] of similar dismissals of nonbelievers are taking place in the whole civil service.
(c) The junta has dismissed all women judges, as they think that a woman cannot sit on the bench to pass judgment on men. What is this but Islamic fundamentalism?
(d) The junta has lashed out against corruption, but has not touched the Islamic banks, which have standing court cases of corruption against them.
(e) During the coup d'etat, 132 youth militia of the NIF participated in a combat role.
(f) A 40-man shura—Islamic fundamentalist parliament—has been formed from the NIF, the Muslim brotherhood and the Ansar al-Sunna [the upholders of orthodox Islamic law].
(g) The junta has come out openly for secession of southern Sudan. Brigadier al-Bashir himself has said this in front of his peace committee that if southerners wish, the south can go its own way. This is a long-standing program of the NIF, who think that the south is an obstacle to their goal of an Islamic Arab Republic.

On this last issue the position of the SPLM/SPLA is uncompromising. The movement stands for Sudan's unity and territorial integrity, and will oppose any partitioning of the country, no matter where. Al-Bashir has neither the legitimacy nor power to partition the country, and his call for the separation of the south is only a ploy to try to bring divisions among southerners. This will not succeed. The SPLA has virtually taken the south and has already entrenched itself in two provinces in the north-southern Kurdufan and southern Blue Nile. Separation is thus unfeasible, no matter the number of southern Sudanese Muzorewas al-Bashir finds.

Al-Bashir's peace conference in Khartoum and the absurdity of inviting the SPLM/SPLA leader to attend Al-Bashir's so-called peace talks in Khartoum:

After the junta met the SPLM/SPLA in 2 days of talks in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, last 19th and 20th August, the military junta formed a so-called peace committee made up of some 100 men. The junta then invited Dr Garang to address the opening session of this committee in Khartoum. When Dr Garang did not turn up, the junta turned around and said the SPLM/SPLA had refused peace talks. This is grossly absurd. No guerrilla movement can be expected to go and talk peace in the national capital, against which it has rebelled and is at war. The Eritrean rebels went to Atlanta to talk with the PDRE [People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia] Government. UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] and the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] went to Gbadolite in Zaire. The Renamo/MNR [Mozambizue Resistance Movement/Mozambique National Resistance] and the FRELIMO [Mozambique Liberation Front] government went to Nairobi, and so on. What is this absurdity of Al-Bashir's junta expecting the SPLM/SPLA to go to Khartoum?

The second disinformation is that there are peace negotiations in Khartoum. Al-Bashir's peace committee is not engaged in peace negotiations. It takes two warring sides to negotiate. None of the 100 members of Al-Bashir's peace committee is at war with the other. Al-Bashir's peace committee is essentially an advisory committee formed by the junta to make recommendations to the junta as to how to proceed with peace talks with the SPLM/SPLA.

The issue of preconditions for peace talks: The junta has made a lot of fuss about the SPLM/SPLA placing preconditions for peace talks. On this the position of the SPLM/SPLA is very clear. The movement has never put any preconditions for peace talks and we are on record on this issue. The following are examples:
(a) The SPLM/SPLA entered the Koka Dam talks in 1986 without any preconditions. These talks resulted in the famous Koka Dam Declaration.
(b) The SPLM/SPLA leader met the then prime minister, Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi, in July 1986 without any preconditions. The meeting lasted 9 hours.
(c) The SPLM/SPLA leader met delegations of the Sudan African parties, SAP, in 1987 in Kampala, Nairobi and Addis Ababa, all without preconditions.
(d) The SPLM/SPLM met a DUP [Democratic Unionist Party] delegation in August 1988 without preconditions. This meeting led to the famous DUP-SPLM November 1988 peace agreement which precipitated Al-Bashir's coup d'etat.

(e) The SPLM/SPLM met an 11-man delegation of Al-Bashir's junta on 19th and 20th August, and this was without preconditions. The movement presented a four-point peace program to the junta. The movement is still waiting for their response.

Clearly from the above observations, the SPLM/SPLA has never placed preconditions for talks. It is the junta that has not responded to our peace program and the SPLM/SPLA awaits them. The SPLM/SPLA is ready to talk with the junta whenever they are ready to respond to our peace program, or if they have their own peace program to present along with ours.

On relief and cease-fire:

(a) Last March 1989 the movement reached agreement with the government of Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and international relief organizations to reach relief to displaced people in southern Sudan. This agreement was reached independently of any cease-fire. The SPLM/SPLA, the government of Al-Sadiq al- Mahdi and [word indistinct] Operation Lifeline Sudan agreed on safe routes, or corridors of tranquillity.
It is true that a cease-fire facilitates relief work, but it is important to underline that relief and cease-fire are independent. The first cease-fire was unilaterally announced by the SPLA on 1st May 1989 to last 1 month. This was extended to cover the whole of June. On 30th June 1989 there was a coup d'etat and the new military junta announced their own unilateral cease-fire. With or without a cease-fire the SPLM/SPLA is committed to allowing relief to reach the affected population in both government and SPLA-controlled areas.

(b) The March 1989 agreement on relief is a three-party arrangement. It requires cooperation and coordination among the relevant relief organizations, the SPLM/SPLA and the Government of Sudan. To date all relief convoys that have been coordinated by the three parties have largely reached their destinations safely.
There have been difficulties with uncoordinated convoy movement, especially in contested areas, and in such cases the Khartoum Government has often been quick to blame the SPLM/SPLA. The movement guarantees the safety of relief convoys only in areas that are under its full control, but not in contested zones. In contested areas there is generally a breakdown of law and order and the situation is further complicated by the presence of armed bandits that are under the control of neither the government nor the SPLA. The movement has thus always advised against the use of roads that pass through contested areas. Two such problematic routes are the Kaia-Yei-Juba road and the Raga-Wau Road.

(c) All in all relief work by Operation Lifeline Sudan, ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross], the Norwegian People's aid and other relief organizations has been very successful, and tens of thousands of lives have been saved. The movement on behalf of the affected people very much appreciates and thanks the relief organizations and governments and institutions that have generously contributed to this noble humanitarian assistance. The movement assures all concerned that the SPLM/SPLA will continue to provide passage and security to relief convoys passing through areas under its control.

Chadian Government, Dissident Troops Clash

AB2110102189 Paris AFP in French 1802 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Paris, 20 Oct (AFP)—Chadian Government troops and forces, under the leadership of dissident former Chadian commander in chief, Idriss Deby, clashed violently for 3 days about 200 km inside the Sudanese Darfur Province, according to a communique sent to AFP today.

According to the communique, sent by Idriss Deby's forces, who have taken the name of "1 April Group" (1 April 1989, date of the rebellion against President Hissein Habre), the attack was repelled and "fiercely crushed." The attackers, the communique adds, left behind "over 700 dead and 430 captured. Thirty of our men were killed and 12 wounded."

The communique further says: "The People's Armed Forces (FAP), with Adoum Togoi as vice chairman [title as received], have maintained contact with the "1 April Group," but they did not take part in the fighting." Although informed forces in Paris have confirmed the clashes, none of them has confirmed the outcome.

Bahrain

Queen Elizabeth Leaves Manama After Short Visit

JN2110142289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1225 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 21 Oct (WAKH)—British Queen Elizabeth II left Manama for London this afternoon after a short visit to Bahrain. During the visit Queen Elizabeth met with His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, and reviewed with his highness bilateral relations and issues of common interest. His highness the amir of Bahrain led those who saw the British queen off upon departure. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

PDRY Prime Minister Nu'man on Official Visit

LD2110162689 Kuwait KUNA in English 1532 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 21 (KUNA)—South Yemeni Prime Minister Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man flew here Saturday evening on an official visit to Kuwait at the invitation of Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah.

The Yemeni premier, who is accompanied by an official delegation, was welcomed at the airport by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid al-Rashid, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-Usaymi, Minister of State for Housing Affairs Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rudan, who heads the honorary mission, South Yemeni ambassador to Kuwait and North Yemeni ambassador to Kuwait, head of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to Kuwait, the Norwegian ambassador, and a number of senior officials at the Crown Prince's Diwan, the Council of Ministers and the Foreign Ministry.

The South Yemeni delegation comprises the foreign minister Dr. 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, Minister of Culture and Information Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Jarhum, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Supply Dr. 'Abdallah Muhammad and a number of other senior South Yemeni officials.

In an arrival statement, Nu'man expressed hope that the visit would yield positive results towards expanding horizons of cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

He said the visit was a continuation of constant contact between officials in the two countries aimed at deepening bonds of bilateral relations which were based on a strong foundation of common understanding towards a number of national and international issues.

The Yemeni premier said the two brotherly peoples had realized several achievements of mutual interest in economic, social and cultural fields through sincere assistance from Kuwait.

Aden Radio Reports Arrival

EA2210182589 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, arrived in Kuwait at 1600 [1300 GMT] this afternoon at the head of a high-level government delegation on an official and friendly visit of several days to the fraternal state of Kuwait, at the invitation of his brother, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the crown prince and prime minister.

During the visit, the delegation will hold talks with senior Kuwaiti officials on bilateral relations and ways of strengthening them, as well as various Arab and international affairs of common interest.

The brother prime minister was accorded a big official welcome on his arrival, reflecting the great importance of this visit and the vital nature of the subjects which the two sides will be discussing in the arena of bilateral relations and their future development.

The prime minister was welcomed at Kuwait International Airport by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, a number of Kuwaiti officials and Brother ('Awad Salim ba Abbad), the PDRY ambassador in Kuwait.

Meets With Crown Prince

LD2210120189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1034 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 22 (KUNA)—H.H. [His Highness] the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Sunday [22 October] met privately at his Diwan at the Bayan Palace with South Yemeni Premier Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man.

Later on, an official Kuwaiti-Yemeni round of talks was held under co-chairmanship of Shaykh Sa'd and Dr Yasin.

Then talks centered on issues of common concern and the brotherly bilateral ties and means of fostering them in all fields.

The talks were attended by State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid al-Rashid, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-Usaymi, State Minister for Housing Affairs and head of the honorary mission accompanying the guest Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rudan as well as other senior Kuwaiti and Yemeni officials.

The high ranking Yemeni official arrived here Saturday on top of a powerful delegation, including Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali.

Oman

Visiting Djibouti Minister Meets Officials

JN2310055089 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Yusuf Ibn-'Alawi Ibn-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, received at his office today Noumin Bahdon Farah, Djibouti minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

During the meeting, they reviewed relations between the two fraternal countries and means to strengthen and develop them, as well as considering issues of mutual concern.

The meeting was attended by Ambassador Ahmad Ibn-Yusuf al-Harithi, head of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Department; and Ambassador Marhum Ibn-Ahmad al-Marhum, director of the minister's office.

PDRY

YSP Deputy Secretary General Departs for Moscow

EA2110075889 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, the deputy secretary general and secretary of the Central Committee, left Aden yesterday evening for Moscow. His official visit ot the Soviet Union, which will last several days, is at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee. He was seen off at the airport by Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and a number of members of the Central Committee and the Presidium, as well as the Soviet ambassador in Aden.

Brother Salim Salih Muhammad told ANA that his visit falls within the framework of the plan of cooperation between the Yemeni Socialist Party and the CPSU. He pointed out that during his visit he will hold discussions with party officials on developing relations between the two parties. The development of Yemeni-Soviet relations, based on the friendship and cooperation treaty between the two countries, will also be duscussed. Views on current pressing issues will be exchanged.

He added that he would acquaint himself with the work experience of the CPSU, as well as the urgent practical tasks being carried out in the context of reconstruction, openness, and transformation under the leadership of the party and the work of Central Committee departments in the current circumstances. He said he would acquaint the CPSU leadership with the activities of our party and people in the context of the comprehensive political and economic reform operation. He stressed that his visit aimed at [words indistinct] to build on traditional relations between the parties and peoples of the two friendly countries.

Official Urges Investors To Benefit From Laws

EA1910115089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Brother Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, has asserted that the orientations of reform, the Political Bureau's decisions concerning the encouragement of investment, and the new investment law are important tools and measures which the party and the authorities in our country have embarked on to guarantee the stimulation and activation of the country's economic situation and the rectification of the distortions which accompanied our experiment and to endeavor to acquire real benefit from the capabilities and potential of the petty and national bourgeoisie in the stage of the democratic national revolution.

In an enlarged meeting, held this evening at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply with brother members of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry from the private sector, Brother Fadl Muhsin said efforts are currently being exerted to encourage exports by the private sector through encouraging prices that will be granted, by exempting them from taxes and by a number of other ideas and by treatment that will find its way to being implemented during the coming period.

He affirmed that Aden city will regain its status, and its commercial activity, and the activity of the free area in our country will increase, and in the stage of reform, the tax law and a number of other laws hampering this activity will be revised.

Brother Fadl Muhsin called on brother investors to benefit from the advantages of the new investment law in which there are no closed areas and where there are a number of tax exemptions. He emphasized the importance of establishing industries and economic activity which rely on local raw materials.

In a reply speech, in which he dealt with all the views, observations and, questions submitted by participants from the private sector, Brother Fadl Muhsin affirmed that some of the objective observations made would be implemented rapidly and the necessary directives would be given. Some objective proposals noted at the meeting would be studied and appropriate decisions made on them because of their importance and vitality.

The meeting was attended by Brothers Dr Abdullah Muhammad 'Uthman, member of the Central Committee and Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply; Dr Ja'far Hamid, deputy minister of planning; 'Ali 'Abd-al-Karim, chairman of the board of directors of the national Chamber of Commerce and Industry and general manager of Al-Nasr Free Company; and a number of officials in the Yemeni National Bank, Aden Port Authority, the Tax Department, the Department of Expatriates' Affairs, the Public Corporation for Tourism, the Bank of Yemen, and number of other competent institutions.

Final Stage of Communications Project Opened

EA1510220789 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, today, within the framework of activities marking the celebration of the 26th anniversary of the glorious October revolution, opened the final stage of the national-international exchange in al-Mu'allah town.

All the technical and organizational arrangements have been completed to enable the exchange to be in contact with the ground stations of operating communications satellites such as Arabsat, (Angle Sputnik), and (Agosat). The national exchange will link with these satellites by means of 97 [words indistinct] circuits.

During the opening ceremony, the brother prime minister exchanged warm comradely congratulations on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the glorious 14 October Revolution with a number of ambassadors of Democratic Yemen in a number of fraternal and friendly countries.

The ceremony was attended by Brother Colonel Haytham Qasim Tahir, candidate member of the Political Bureau, first deputy premier and chief of General Staff and a number of members of the Central Committee and ministers. It is noteworthy that with the completion of this national project, the telecommunications authority in our country has completed the entire series of technical and organizational arrangements of this integrated project, the cost of which about 22 million Yemeni dinars.

By means of this the authority has put its services of direct communications, internally and externally, within the reach of subscribers both inside the country and outside it.

Qatar

Amir Receives Telephone Call From YAR President

JN2110200389 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Doha, 21 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, has received a telephone call from Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR].

During the telephone conversation, they exchanged views on current developments in the Arab and international arenas and on ways to bolster bilateral relations.

Saudi Arabia

'Sources' Deny Report of Violence in Kingdom

LD2210161789 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1547 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Jeddah, 22 Oct SPA—A responsible source has denied a report by the Lebanese AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI in its issue of yesterday, Saturday 22 October 1989, [as received] claiming that serious violent events have occured in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In a statement to SPA, the source said: "What the paper has reported springs purely from a sick imagination and has no foundation in truth considering the whole and its details."

United Arab Emirates

Djibouti Foreign Minister Arrives With Message

JN2110182089 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 21 (GNA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] President Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan today received a letter from Djibouti's President Hassan Gouled.

It was handed to Chamberlain of the Presidential Court Shaykh Surur Ibn-Muhammad Al Nuhayyan by Foreign Minister Noumin Farah.

Shaykh Surur, meanwhile, received U.S. Ambassador David Lyle Mack, who came to bid farewell at the end of his tenure in the UAE.

Confers With Rashid 'Abdallah

JN2110182489 Manama WAKH in English 1610 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 21 (GNA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah met today with Djibouti's Foreign Minister Noumin Farah.

They discussed bilateral ties and developments in the Arab world and the Horn of Africa.

Departs for Muscat 21 Oct

JN2210075289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0540 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Oct (WAKH)—Djibouti Foreign Affairs Minister Noumin Bahdon Farah left Abu Dhabi for Muscat this evening following a 2-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

During the visit, the Djibouti minister conveyed a message from Djibouti President Hassan Gouled to His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president.

Ethiopian Envoy Leaves Abu Dhabi 22 Oct

JN2210174489 Manama WAKH in English 1640 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 22 (GNA)—An aide to Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam left today after a visit during which he delivered a message to UAE President Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Kasa Kibbida, a member of the workers' party Central Committee, was seen off by a number of officials.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Praises Al-Qadhdhafi-Mubarak Meeting

JN2310053589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Brother leader Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, made a telephone call today to his brother, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution.

The brother leader and president expressed his welcome of, and congratulations over the fraternal meeting between presidents Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Muhammad Husni Mubarak in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq.

Shamir Rejects U.S. Plan on PLO Talks Role

TA2210070489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Israel has rejected U.S. Secretary of State Baker's suggestion of U.S. guarantees that the PLO will not participate in the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. The United States has made it clear that Israel must deliver an official response to the U.S. proposals very soon. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

[Gutman] Prime Minister Shamir held consultations with his advisers and with the ministers close to him over the weekend following his telephone conversation with Secretary of State Baker. Shamir and his coterie discussed Baker's latest suggestion. They also decided that the proposal that Israel be given guarantees of the PLO's nonparticipation in the negotiations cannot be acceptable to Israel at this time. The position adopted by the prime minister and the foreign minister is that the U.S. guarantees must be included within the five points themselves, and not as a separate addendum to the document. This position was made known to the Americans during several contacts which took place following the Shamir-Baker conversation.

Meanwhile, Jerusalem is once again feeling that the United States has allocated Israel only a short time to formulate an official response to the Baker plan. Political sources estimated that the fact that Egypt also has not officially responded to the proposal so far slightly eases the pressure on Israel.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has already sent Baker a quasi-response to the plan which expressed Israel's reservations regarding the two points discussing the composition of the Palestinian delegation and the forum's agenda. The United States does not consider this to be an official and final response.

Sources within the Likud made it clear yesterday evening that the prime minister will not oppose a debate on the Baker proposal in either the Inner Cabinet or the forum of four [Shamir, Arens, Rabin, Peres].

Shamir Calls U.S. Critics 'Slanderers,' 'Liars'

TA2310062389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Oct 89 p 1

[Report by Mikhal Yudelman]

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir last night branded those in the U.S. who contend that he "is running away from the peace initiative" as "slanderers and liars."

Shamir said: "The Likud, and I as part of it, stick to every word we said or wrote in this initiative."

The prime minister, speaking at Histadrut campaign rallies in Ashdod and Ashqelon, said that he had made it clear to U.S. President Bush that he treated the peace initiative very seriously. "I told the president not to take any notice of the slanderers who say that I am evading the initiative."

Baker's Plan Must Agree With Israeli Initiative

TA2310053889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has called on the United States to exercise patience in regard to the peace process. In a speech to party supporters in Ashqelon last night, Shamir urged Washington not to constantly watch the clock, as he put it.

The prime minister said Israel was not abandoning her peace initiative, but at the same time it had to be understood that Israel would not negotiate with the PLO.

Concerning the Baker five-point proposal, Shamir said that this would have to accord with the initiative announced by the Israeli Government. Shamir said that the main task now was to persuade the Americans of Israel's sincerity regarding the reservations it had expressed about the Baker points.

Shamir Seeking U.S. Commitment of Support

TA2310075089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Oct 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens are asking Washington for an advance commitment to support Israel if it decides to walk out of any dialogue that materializes with the Palestinians.

The request was made in contacts with the administration concerning an American "accompanying letter" that would contain assurances aimed at coaxing Shamir into agreeing to the proposed dialogue on elections in the territories, sources in Jerusalem divulged last night.

The sources added that Shamir and Arens are seeking an assurance of U.S. support if Israel decides that the dialogue strays from how the proposed elections are to be carried out.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, it is understood, is not inclined to agree to the request. He is reported to be willing only to provide assurances that the PLO will not participate in the dialogue, and to make what Washington describes as "cosmetic changes" in his five-point plan.

Shamir insists that the exclusion of the PLO be mentioned explicitly in the five points and not in any accompanying letter.

Washington has also proposed that the dialogue open with general statements by both Palestinians and Israelis before the sides proceed to talks on the elections themselves.

Jerusalem has made clear that it will walk out of the dialogue if the Palestinian opening statement expresses identification with the PLO or if the subsequent talks do not focus on elections alone.

The advance commitment sought by Shamir and Arens would be similiar to that contained in the draft memorandum to which Washington agreed following the April, 1987 London Agreement with Jordan's King Husayn, which called for a non-coercive international conference. At that time, the U.S. committed itself to join Israel in walking out of an international conference, if any of the procedural agreements were violated.

In the present case, sources in Jerusalem said, Shamir and Arens are asking for a virtual blank cheque from Washington in seeking administration backing for any break-up of the proposed dialogue.

Despite the continuing contacts between Jerusalem and Washington, sources in both capitals were sceptical yesterday about the chances of agreement. The sources described as "almost inevitable" a major political crisis after Shamir returns from Washington at the end of next month.

Shamir surprised cabinet members yesterday by claiming that "there are no ongoing contacts with the U.S." Shamir's remark came in response to Communications Minister Gad Ya'aqobi's request for reports from Shamir and Arens on the latest developments. [passage omitted]

Rabin Briefed on Contacts Held in Washington

TA2310074589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Yesterday's Shamir-Arens-Rabin meeting—an abridged version of the forum of four [usually including Peres]—broke the ice that had prevented a Likud-Alignment discussion of the peace process. Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, who is still in the hospital, was absent.

In yesterday's meeting, Rabin was briefed on the latest political developments and on the contacts between Jerusalem and Washington. Afterward, all the participants stressed that the meeting had achieved nothing new and that the Likud-Alignment disagreements with regard to the Baker plan had not been solved.

Prime Minister Shamir wishes to regain the relations he had with Defense Minister Rabin prior to Rabin's departure for Washington.

Shamir will hold the political debate demanded by the Alignment in the forum of four, in which a Likud-Alignment dialogue is possible and which is a less rigid forum than the Inner Cabinet. The four will not convene before Peres is released from the hospital and Arens returns from abroad—presumably not before next week.

In the meantime, the controversy over the Baker plan remains as profound as ever. Israel is demanding that the guarantees promised by the United States for the exclusion of the PLO from the process be an integral part of the five points, rather than a separate document. Baker is responding: There will be no substantive changes in the plan itself. We will agree only to cosmetic changes.

The atmosphere is Jerusalem is far from optimistic. Sources in Shamir's bureau have described the situation to us as follows: The whole issue is a game of nerves between Israel and the United States. The side with the stronger nerves will win.

Pazner Hopes No New Tension in Ties With U.S.

TA2010121589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Telephone interview with Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, by moderator Me'ir Einstein and political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good day, Mr Pazner.

[Pazner] A very good day.

[Einstein] It was Mr Shamir himself who spoke of the expected tension in Israeli-U.S. relations. Do you also define the current state of relations as tense?

[Pazner] The prime minister was referring to a situation which we should try to avoid. In recent days, the prime minister stressed several times that our relations with the United States are close and friendly; that there are differences of opinion in some spheres which must be dealt with, in order to prevent the emergence of new tensions or crises; and, at the same time, that we must remain loyal to our principles.

[Golan] Mr Pazner, would you say that after all the talks and exchanges of messages between Washington and Jerusalem since Wednesday, the danger of new tensions between the two countries no longer exists?

[Pazner] I fervently hope so. The almost daily conversations between the prime minister and either the President or the secretary of state and between the foreign minister and the secretary of state are not trivial. They attest to the close contacts and the continuous dialogue. I believe that in this situation of an ongoing dialogue, of attempts to find solutions and to promote the peace process, no new tension will arise in relations between the two countries.

[Golan] One of the solutions proposed recently are the guarantees ensuring that we will not be forced to talk with the PLO, which Secretary of State Baker is willing to give Israel. Would you say this solution is satisfactory to the prime minister?

[Pazner] Look, it all depends on what newspapers you read.

[Golan] I read all of them.

[Pazner] There are different rumors about various proposals. What will satisfy the prime minister is the exclusion of the PLO from the picture of the peace process and of our peace initiative. This is our aim: the promotion of peace process and the exclusion of the PLO. How you exclude the PLO is not very important.

[Golan] By means of guarantees, for instance?

[Pazner] Let us say that in this instance, the goal is more important than the means. I am saying this deliberately, because I do not wish to go into details of discussions. Yesterday the prime had a talk. I assume that conversation will be continued in the next few days in more talks the prime minister or the foreign minister will have and perhaps through diplomatic contacts. Why discuss an unfinished matter? I would only like to make our goal clear: Our goal is to totally remove the PLO from the picture, to prevent any possibility of the PLO participating either indirectly or directly at or under the negotiating table. This is the purpose of the current contacts.

[Einstein] As far as is known, the Americans have not yet bought this formula.

[Pazner] But it is a fact that the United States has made a point of holding a very close dialogue. I believe the very fact of this dialogue refutes all the pessimistic prophecies regarding tensions or an alleged confrontation.

[Einstein] Does not the dialogue also expose disagreements?

[Pazner] As I said, the entirety of our relations with the United States may include several points about which we have not yet reached an understanding. Really, it is hard to conceive of two countries being able to constantly agree on everything! Similar things related to the United States have occurred in the past. You must remember those quite difficult periods when Begin was the prime minister, during which Carter tried to pressure him, or when Rabin was the prime minister and President Ford and Kissinger tried to pressure him. Periods like that happen. What we need to do is stand firm and adhere to our principles. We will at the same time work toward preserving our friendship and alliance with the United States.

[Einstein] Mr Pazner, let us assume that, as you say, we will preserve our friendship and understanding with the United States. There is, however, another factor, the PLO, which announced this week that the composition of the Palestinian delegation will be determined by it alone. Is it possible that we are playing chess with the United States and checkers with ourselves, neither of which will ever lead us to a dialogue with the Palestinians?

[Pazner] The fact is that we are not interested in what the PLO says, because we are not interested in reaching a dialogue with the PLO. What we want is a dialogue with Palestinians living here with us. The United States knows this very well. This point was one of the goals of the recent talks and of the prime minister's message to Secretary of State Baker 2 days ago, in which he explained the issue in great detail. I think it is very clear to the United States that the goal is to exclude the PLO from the game. Therefore, what the PLO says does not matter in this instance. We are after a different partner.

[Golan] Do you believe, Mr Pazner, that a period of reassessment of Israeli-U.S. relations, such as has occurred in the past, is not to be expected?

[Pazner] I do not think so. I will tell you the truth: I remember no other period in which the dialogue—both on the telephone and in writing—was as close and frequent as it is at this time. I think all this demonstrates the United States' desire to avoid a confrontation with Israel. By the way, President Bush himself said as much to the prime minister in their telephone conversation, and so did the State Department spokeswoman yesterday. I have the minutes of her statement here in front of me. During the course of the briefing, she said at least 15 times that they are interested in continuing the relations of closeness, friendship, and alliance—in her own words—with Israel.

[Einstein] She also said that the prime minister's remarks in the Likud caucus are disappointing and harmful, did she not?

[Pazner] Well, look, she was asked and, like every spokesperson, she had to give some answer when asked.

[Einstein] To sum up, Mr Pazner: I understand that the recent close dialogue between Jerusalem and Washington is designed to pave the way for the possibility of reaching an agreed formula, despite everything, in the meeting between President Bush and the prime minister.

[Pazner] Perhaps. I would define it differently: The dialogue is meant to pave the way for the promotion of political moves and of our peace initiative; this is the joint goal of the United States and Israel.

[Einstein] Thank you very much, Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser.

Differences To Be Clarified

TA2210094589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] The prime minister's media adviser said that the differences of opinion between Israel and the United States regarding the political process will be clarified during Prime Minister Shamir's meetings in Washington scheduled for mid-November. He denied that Shamir's trip would be postponed if no progress is achieved in the peace initiative, adding that reports that the U.S. Administration has set a deadline for progress, after which it would cease all involvement in the peace initiative, are greatly exaggerated.

The foreign minister's adviser told our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen that Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and his

U.S. counterpart James Baker are maintaining continuous contact. He denied that a meeting between the two men had been proposed.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0930 GMT on 22 October reports that "Foreign Minister Moshe Arens spoke with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker over the telephone on 20 October. Arens phoned Baker following Baker's telephone conversation with Prime Minister Shamir. The two men discussed ways to find a compromise regarding the Baker plan that could be acceptable to Israel."]

Paper Views U.S. Move as Prompt for Labor

TA2210122889 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 22 Oct 89 p 7

[Editorial: "The United States Is Lowering the Profile"]

[Text] The latest public appearances of U.S. Administration leaders in Washington indicate a change of approach. The past few weeks have been marked by intense U.S. involvement in the political process by way of contacts with various regional elements. The administration leaders placed all their bets on Mubarak's desire to play a role in the process and on the Alignment leaders' firm desire to promote it. They also assumed that the Likud leaders would not wish to lag behind developments. Yet Shamir and Arens failed to live up to the State Department's expectations, operating instead along the lines that have characterized Shamir's modus operandi ever since he assumed office; namely, footdragging, ennui, vague statements, and adherence to the absolute principle of "anything but the PLO."

After several barren weeks, during which imaginary and semi-official plans were tossed around with an abundance of rumors and conflicting facts, the Americans evidently understood the principle which Rabin also set in his struggle for acceptance of the Mubarak plan. According to this principle, the political process can only progress if the leaders of the elements directly involved in the process, which is to say the Government of Israel and Palestinian leaders, truly desire it. If they do not, the United States would not be able to force it to advance. Shamir and Arens are paying lip service to the political process, but have sworn themselves to silence because they do not wish to start an internal war in their party, and because they apparently fear a political process that would demand ideological concessions from them.

It is hard to tell whether the fact that the Americans have lowered the profile in regard to the political process is a temporary tactical move or a calculated long-term move. The United States has, in various ways, made it clear to the Israeli Government that the solution of the Middle East problem does not constitute its prime interest, and, in view of the thaw in superpower relations, its interest in the region continues to wane. The U.S. move can also be construed as a covert threat to Shamir. This lowered U.S. profile could be manifested in a decline in Israel's political clout in the eyes of the United States, entailing cutbacks in economic aid. In this move, the administration clarified that the political arena is shifting to the inter-partisan struggle in Israel, and that the Alignment must take steps that would indicate its willingness to pay some price and make courageous decisions.

Cabinet Discusses MiG Probe, Procurement Plan

TA2210131789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Chief of Staff Dan Shomron today briefed the Cabinet on the results of the investigation into the infiltration of the Syrian MiG. Shomron also detailed the measures taken in the wake of the special investigative team's report.

The Cabinet also discussed the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] multiyear procurement plan. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that Ministers Levi, Meridor, Ya'aqobi, and Gur spoke during the debate.

Minister Ya'aqobi said that 16 years without a war against Israel are the result of the IDF's deterrent capability, and of the changes in the political situation, especially the Camp David accords. Ya'aqobi asserted that the conclusion of all this is that greater emphasis must be put on sophisticated weaponry, and that technology can substitute for geography. Military force is only one factor in the total power of national security. In addition to military force one must also consider the political situation, and the economic, scientific, technological, and human capabilities.

Hayim Oron To Head MAPAM Knesset Faction

TA2210140889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Knesset Member [MK] Ya'ir Tzaban is retiring from his position as head of the MAPAM [United Workers Party] Knesset faction. He will be replaced by MK Hayim Oron.

In a news conference he held today, Tzaban said that he would devote all of his time to the Histadrut and his position as the head of the MAPAM faction in it. [passage omitted]

Knesset To Vote on 4 No-Confidence Motions

TA2310095189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] A new motion of no-confidence in the government has been submitted by MAPAM [United Workers Party] over what it terms socioeconomic misdeeds and paralysis. MAPAM says that a government incapable of making concrete decisions on halting inflation is in fact accelerating it and is therefore unworthy of the Knesset's confidence. MAPAM has also announced that it will support the no-confidence motions tabled by the CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] and Shinuy over the political situation.

Our Knesset affairs correspondent Yo'el Nir notes that the total number of no-confidence motions to be raised in the Knesset tomorrow now stands at four: three over the political issue and one over the economic situation.

This morning, the Alignment and Likud factions are holding separate meetings to decide on stands in anticipation of tomorrow's voting.

Poll: Continuation of Unity Government Favored

TA2210122289 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Oct 89 p A13

[No date given on when poll was conducted]

[Text] The findings of a poll conducted by Teleseqer for MA'ARIV among a nationwide sample of 500 male and female adults over the age of 18 in a representative population cross section shows that the majority of the public favors the continued existence of the unity government. Others believed that it has outlived its usefulness.

Position	Percentage of total sample
Dissolving the unity government and holding elections	20.2
Establishing a narrow government headed by the Alignment	9.2
Establishing a narrow government headed by the Likud	8.6
Maintaining the unity government under the present conditions	47.2
Have no opinion	14.8
Total	100.0

Congressmen Lobbied on U.S.-Saudi Tank Deal

NC2110083589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Oct (MENA)—The Abu Dhabi-based newspaper AL-ITTIHAD reports today that Israel has started to urge its lobby in the U.S. Congress to obstruct the conclusion of the U.S. M1A2 tank deal with Saudi Arabia. This Israeli move, the paper adds, is part of a systematic campaign that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has embarked on to pressure the U.S. Administration prior to his visit to Washington in November.

Official congressional sources have disclosed to the paper that 30 members representing the congressional foreign, defense, and national security committees have signed a memorandum addressed to Secretary of State James Baker. They asked him to conduct further investigations into the deal, and pay particular attention to the missile, laser, and radar systems with which the tank will be supplied. AL-ITTIHAD notes that this information about the deal has not been revealed by the Defense Department.

U.S.-Iranian Contacts on Hostages Confirmed

TA2210100189 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Oct 89 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] Reports speaking of intensive negotiations between the United States and Iran for the release of American hostages have been proliferating in the past 24 hours.

Our political correspondent has learned that reports which have reached Israel speak of U.S.-Iranian negotiations conducted under utmost secrecy for the imminent release of the American hostages held in Lebanon.

The Israeli sources, who confirmed these reports, said that the release of Israelis held captive in Lebanon was not mentioned in the contacts between the United States and Iran.

Novik Notes Soviet 'Coolness' on Peres Visit

TA1910131489 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Oct 89 p 7

[Report by Moscow correspondent Amnon Kapeliuk]

[Text] Dr Nimrod Novik, political adviser to Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, met for approximately 2 and ½ hours yesterday with Gennadiy Tarasov, Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's representative for Middle Eastern affairs.

Novik pointed out the differences in attitude between the Soviet Peace Committee, which invited Peres to Moscow and is going out of its way to turn the visit into a lever for the renewal of diplomatic relations between the two countries, and the Soviet Foreign Ministry, which has reacted with coolness to the visit.

During his 2-day trip Novik also briefed the Soviets in detail on all the cooperation agreements Israel is proposing. Novik explained the cooperation projects in a meeting with Valeriy Pekshev, deputy chairman of the USSR State Bank. The suggested projects are in the fields of agriculture, health, energy, science and technology, education, aviation, naval agreements, and tourism.

There are many suggested projects for cooperation in every field. At the end of his 2d day in Moscow, Novik said that the Soviets had shown great interest in the Israeli proposals, and had told him that there are no obstacles to their implementation.

Peres' Moscow Visit Postponed

TA2010184789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Vice Premier Shim'on Peres has postponed his proposed visit to Moscow indefinitely because the

Soviets would not guarantee that he would meet President Gorbachev or Foreign Minister Shevardnadze. This was confirmed by Meron Re'uven, a spokesman at the Finance Ministry.

Peres' aide, Dr Nimrod Novik, went to Moscow last week to arrange the visit, but reportedly failed to secure Soviet agreement for meetings at the highest level. Peres is currently in the hospital in 'Afula, recovering from a urinary tract infection.

Novik Returns From USSR

TA2310054989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Nimrod Novik, political adviser to Vice Premier Peres, has said on his return from a visit to the Soviet Union that the Soviet authorities there are very interested in the forthcoming visit of Peres.

Novik last night briefed the finance minister, who is at present recovering from a urinary tract infection at the 'Afula Hospital in the Yizre'el Valley. Novik told Peres that the Soviets made it clear the invitation for the visit would be extended by the Soviet Peace Committee and not by the government. This was because diplomatic relations did not exist between the two countries.

Novik also said it was still not clear whether Peres would meet government leaders during his stay in Moscow. The exact date for the visit will be set within the next 3 weeks, Novik said.

Novik's USSR Visit Detailed

TA2310081089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Report by economic affairs correspondent Yaron Kulas]

[Text] Nimrod Novik, Shim'on Peres' political adviser, was the first Israeli official in 25 years to conduct official talks in the Kremlin itself. Novik's talks revolved around the preparations for Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to the USSR, which is to promote economic ties between the two countries. He met with President Mikhail Gorbachev's advisers Yevgeniy Velikhov, Anatoliy Dobrynin, and Valentin Falin, and with Soviet Foreign Ministry officials Sergey Rogov and Gennadiy Tarasov.

Nimrod Novik was unable to set the final agenda for Peres' visit, and he will be obliged to return to the Soviet Union to arrange the meetings. Even at this date, no confirmation has been received for a meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev, which Peres had requested, although the Soviet side has shown a sympathetic attitude to the issue.

What has been agreed during Novik's visit? The Soviets are interested in Israeli products and expertise in a variety of fields: agriculture, industry, medicine, tourism, communications, aviation, energy, and banking. A Soviet delegation comprising officials from all these spheres will soon arrive in Israel to meet with Israeli counterparts and prepare the background for feasible projects in anticipation of Peres' visit to the Soviet Union.

The visit is to take place within the next 2 months. The Soviets believe that economic ties will contribute to diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union at a later stage.

Poland's Mazowiecki Committed To Resuming Ties

TA2010165889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki says he cannot set a date for the resumption of relations between Poland and Israel. In answer to a question by our correspondent in Rome, Yosi Bar, the Polish prime minister said his country is morally and politically committed to work for the resumption of relations with Israel. Mazowiecki expressed the hope that a way will be found to achieve coexistence between Israel and the Arabs since neither one of these nations could be transferred to the moon, as he put it.

As for the Carmelite monastery in Auschwitz, the Polish prime minister said that the Vatican and the church authorities in Poland have taken action to resolve the issue. He added that his government believes that the agreement achieved on this matter should be honored, but that this matter does not fall under its jurisdiction.

Polish Representative Discusses Economic Ties

TA2210175289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Israel and Poland are rapidly progressing toward establishing full diplomatic relations. These remarks were made this afternoon by Stefan Kwiatkowski, head of the Polish Interests Office in Israel, in a farewell meeting held in his honor in Haifa on the occasion of the end of his tour here. He said that during his 3 years in Israel, cultural and social relations between the two countries have strengthened. According to him, however, not enough has been done to take advantage of Poland's economic potential. Concerning the Auschwitz convent, the Polish representative said that he believes that a solution satisfactory to all sides will be found. He stressed that this issue should be dealt with quietly, sensitively, and unhurriedly.

Czeslaw Jackowski, his replacement as head of the Interests Office and who also took part in the event, said that he foresees a tightening of economic relations between Poland and Israel. He added that at present he has in his office plans for some 150 economic projects that could interest Israeli investors.

Turkey To Upgrade Ties if Armenian Day Foiled

TA2210140789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Oct 89 p 1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] During the past few days, Turkish Jewry has been pressuring the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry's top echelons to increase the involvement of U.S. Jewish organizations in working against the Armenian memorial day bill.

The heads of the Turkish community, who arrived here for a convention marking the 500th anniversary of the Spanish deportation of the Jews, have conveyed a message noting that in return for Israel's efforts on the issue, Turkey would upgrade relations to the ambassadorial level. Relations have been at the level of authorized representatives since 1981.

At the same time, efforts are in progress to tighten relations between Israel and the USSR Armenian Republic. For the first time, a representative will arrive in Israel to formulate contracts for the purchase of irrigation equipment and to examine the possibility of implementing agricultural methods used in kibbutzim and moshavim throughout Israel in Armenian collective farms and state farms.

The visitor, Dr Misak Melkonyan, who will arrive in Israel in 2 days, will be the guest of Eytan Yisra'eli, an agricultural adviser. As a result of Yisra'eli's visit to Armenia last month, Israeli trainers have left for Armenia to introduce modern agricultural methods and establish a new infrastructure for the food industry.

The guest leads a farm development organization in Armenia and controls 45 collective farms and state farms holding some 0.5 million dunams [12,350 acres] and employing some 50,000 people.

Ties with the Armenians were established following the medical aid Israel extended to the Armenian earthquake victims.

Weizman To Sign Technology Agreement in Spain

TA2210104589 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Oct 89 p A10

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[Excerpt] Science and Technology Minister 'Ezer Weizman is leaving tonight for Madrid, where he will cosign a science and technology agreement between Israel and Spain. The agreement will be the first of its kind since the establishment of the State of Israel. In the framework of the agreement, the two countries will exchange scientists and researchers and will maintain scientific ties between universities.

Originally, Weizman's visit was to be devoted exclusively to professional matters lying within his ministerial responsibility. At the last moment, however, his Spanish hosts arranged several political meetings for Minister Weizman, including one with Prime Minister Gonzalez, Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, and the defense minister. Weizman also will meet with his official host, Science Minister Javier Solana, and with the Spanish justice minister, who will host Weizman's encounter with Spanish author Camilo Jose Cela, a friend of Israel and the chairman of the Israeli-Spanish friendship society (and the 1989 Nobel Prize winner). [passage omitted]

Pact Reached With PRC News Agency on Exchange

TA1710105789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] The Chinese news agency, XINHUA, has reached an agreement with the Israeli ITIM news agency. Under the agreement, ITIM will receive news and reports from China, the Far East, and the Eastern bloc. The first report in the framework of the new agreement was received this morning, and is about the employment structure of the PRC nuclear industry, which supplies jobs to 300,000 people.

The Chinese agency's international news service offers six daily news broadcasts in English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, and Chinese.

Voice of Israel Begins Broadcasting to Yemen

TA1810113889 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Oct 89 p 16

[Report by Rivqa Neuman]

[Text] The Voice of Israel is beginning to air broadcasts beamed at Yemen. They are intended for the Yemeni Jews. Preparations for a 15-minute program to be broadcast once a week have been completed. Later, the program will become a daily feature.

The broadcasts will be in Arabic and in the Yemeni dialect of Hebrew. The broadcaster will be Dr Aharon Ben-David.

IDF Unaware of UNIFIL Complaint About SLA

TA2210133989 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 22 Oct 89 p 2

[Report by Yehuda Tzur]

[Excerpts] UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] last week submitted a complaint to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] following a serious incident on 19 October that involved an SLA [South Lebanese Army] contingent and Norwegian UN soldiers. The incident occurred in the Sunni village of Shab'a, near Mt Hermon.

The SLA troops arrived in Shab'a on patrol, observed by Norwegian soldiers stationed in the area. According to UNIFIL, the SLA unit's commander demanded that the

soldiers leave the site. When they refused, he threatened them with a rocket-propelled grenade.

At the same time, several SLA soldiers fired in the air. Not wanting to bring about a clash, the Norwegian soldiers left the site. In his headquarters at Ibil al-Saqy last week, Lieutenant Colonel Olafon, commander of the Norwegian contingent, told Norwegian reporters that he had asked the IDF on several occasions to remove that SLA commander from the area, as he had stirred up clashes with UNIFIL on a number of occasions, but to no avail. [passage omitted]

The UNIFIL spokesman pointed out that recently the same SLA unit has been involved in several clashes, including the incident last year in which a Norwegian soldier was injured.

Military sources reported last night that no UNIFIL complaint about the incident had been received.

Tax Collection in Territories Down One-Third

TA2010113889 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Oct 89 p A2

[Report by military correspondent Dan Sagir]

[Excerpt] Income from tax collection in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since the beginning of the intifadah has dropped by one-third. Over the past 2 years, the Civil Administration has lost revenues amounting to approximately 150 million shekels a year. The loss of these funds stems mainly from the adherence of the residents in the territories to the calls of the Unified National Command of the Uprising for a tax revolt, the steep decline in economic activity in the territories since December 1987, a substantial cut in traffic across the Jordan River bridges (entailing a loss of income from bridge-crossing fees), and the resignation of some of the Arab employees of the tax offices in the territories.

The military source who reported this to HA'ARETZ noted that the drop could have been far more radical had Jewish staffing of tax offices not been beefed up substantially. These personnel conduct tax collection campaigns and employ a host of measures to increase tax collection.

The source claimed that in many cases, taxes and fees are being collected from sectors that had previously evaded taxation altogether. The 30-percent drop in Civil Administration income from taxation, which constitutes the main source of the Civil Administration's budget (accounting for approximately 82 percent of it)—which currently stands at approximately 500 million shekels—has nearly completely obliterated development budgets in various areas. Now most of the monies collected are being channeled into financing standing projects, such as the payment of employee salaries, government hospital maintenance, and education budgets. [passage omitted]

Army Declares Bethlehem, Bayt Sahur Closed

TA1910183989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] The Army today declared Bethlehem and Bayt Sahur closed military zones. A spokesman says the move was to prevent about 50 peace activists from Jerusalem from demonstrating at the entrance to Bayt Sahur in protest against the tough measures taken against the tax rebellion in that Arab village. The Army stopped the demonstrators near Rachel's Tomb, where the protest was then held.

No further incidents were reported.

Bayt Sahur Warned 'You Alone Will Go Hungry'

TA2010111989 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Oct 89 p 16

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] In a new move to break the tax revolt in the West Bank town of Bayt Sahur, the IDF yesterday distributed a leaflet to residents, warning that media interest in them would wane and they would ultimately "go hungry."

Townspeople claimed in a message smuggled to Israeli peace activists that the army had cut off food supplies, stripped homes, and beaten and humiliated residents during the month-long crackdown on the town.

Some two million shekels worth of household goods, machinery and merchandise have been confiscated, as well as 23 cars.

The IDF leaflet said that though many townspeople wanted to end the confrontation with the army, "a group of irresponsible people are inciting residents to break the law, in addition to elements from outside Bayt Sahur who want to make political capital from events in the town. Don't believe promises of financial assistance from different parties, because you alone will go hungry and pay the price of refusal...

"Media interest in events in the town will last only a few days, until Bayt Sahur vanishes from the headlines, just as international media interest in the territories has declined.

"You stand alone facing the security forces, who will not leave the town until their mission is complete."

In their statement, Bayt Sahur residents said: "We will not finance the bullets that kill our children, the growing number of prisons, the expenses of the occupying army, the luxuries and weapons provided to collaborators.

"No new food supplies reach us. We are under economic siege. The confiscation which has reached 120 shops, factories and houses is accompanied by beatings, humiliation, looting and damage to the goods.

"The repression against our town is reaching every person, destroying property and sources of income. It is ruining all aspects of economic activity in Bayt Sahur.

"The military authorities do not represent us and we did not invite them to come to our land. The principle is no taxation without representation."

The statement was given to 10 religious peace activists let through an army cordon thrown up in Bethlehem to prevent a larger group from reaching Bayt Sahur. The activists wore skullcaps and were apparently mistaken for settlers. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Lectures at Oxford University

JN2010091289 Amman Domestic Service in English 0540 GMT 20 Oct 89

["Excerpts" from King Husayn's lecture at Oxford University on 19 October—read by announcer]

[Text] So distinguished are the speakers who have preceded me at the inauguration of the Cyril Foster lecture that I feel privileged to have been invited with you today. A point on which we can all agree at the outset is that the Middle East question is one of the most talked about subjects in the last four decades. Yet, it is proved to be the most intractable of modern conflicts. This evening I shall endeavor to put before you a picture of the current situation as I see it and examine with you the prospects for peace in our region in the light of developments over the last few years.

In my 37 years as king of Jordan, I have lived in the period of the cold war almost from its beginning to what now appears to be its closing chapter. The world has shifted its search for survival from nuclear deterrence rooted in fear to the ecological imperative requiring cooperation on a global scale. Regional and subregional groupings of states have been formed around the world to promote economic complementarity as a precursor to political unity. The trend towards more democracy and greater participation in the decisionmaking process is evident everywhere. Relations between the superpowers are better than at any time since the end of the Second World War. The impact of these major developments is being felt and universally appreciated at international, regional, and national levels.

My concern is that the Middle East has so far been the least affected by the spirit of detente which these developments collectively represent. Yet conditions in the region and beyond, viewed from a strictly objective standpoint, seem to indicate otherwise. What are these objective conditions? How different are they from those that prevailed in the sixties and seventies? Where will they take us and will this generation see a just and lasting resolution of the Middle East conflict in its lifetime?

Foremost among the objective considerations that we must consider are the evolving attitudes of the Palestinians both within and outside the occupied territories. Since the Palestinian-Israeli struggle is at the root of the Middle East conflict, the substantive change in Palestinian thinking must be examined very carefully, for in the final analysis it is the Palestinians and the Israelis who must live with the outcome of the settlement. The intifadah has had a major impact on how the Palestinians currently perceive the possible outcome of their legitimate struggle to gain their national rights. With a new impetus to Palestinian aspirations, it also brings greater political realism. The goal as perceived by the Palestinians has become attainable. The intifadah is an effective guarantee of the continuation of the struggle should all else fail.

The PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, is now in a position to advocate the Palestinian cause on the basis of international and regional realities. The Palestinians have made a historic compromise. They have set aside the dream of regaining a homeland in the whole of mandated Palestine and are now willing to accept an independent state on less than a third of that area in the West Bank and Gaza—an independent state on Palestinian soil, not on territory that is taken from Israel. By accepting Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and renouncing violence, they have chosen the path of peaceful negotiations. This was made clear during president 'Arafat's address to the United Nations General Assembly in Geneva and in several subsequent statements.

Due to the facts of the intifadah and Jordan's legal and administrative disengagement from the West Bank, the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip must now be determined through negotiations between the parties immediately concerned. We make no claim to the territories, but stand ready to assist the Palestinians in any way we can. By disengaging from the West Bank, Jordan has enabled the PLO to cast aside its suspicions and engage us and the world community in a serious dialogue about its vision of the future. Current PLO talks with the United States and Europe are a clear indication of how far we have all moved during the last year towards a more precise definition of the issue.

As far as the Palestinian issue is concerned, the international climate today is vastly different from that of the sixties and seventies. The Palestinians are now regarded basically as what they are, a disenfranchised people seeking to reestablish their position in the world community in freedom and dignity. For how long will they be denied what Edward Gibbon considered the first of earthly blessings—independence? The Palestinian people can [as heard] afford to be patient, considerate, and accomodating. The intifadah, of course, has meant a great deal, and so have the sustained efforts of those Arab states who strive to explain and highlight the plight of the Palestinians.

In the western world, Europe must be recognized as a forerunner in the search for evenhandedness because its public perception of the Palestinian dilemma has been strengthened by government action. The Venice Declaration of 1980 as well as subsequent statements have helped pave the way for an acceptance by skeptics of the principle of self-determination for the Palestinians and a mechanism of an international peace conference to resolve the issue. The whole world is breathing more easily with the adoption of policies by the superpowers and other major actors who have rejected the logic of the cold war and reached for dialogue and consensus. Sooner or later, provided detente continues to flourish, the Middle East region stands to benefit most from its effects and cannot afford to disregard its prevailing spirit, nor has it entirely escaped its impact, at least at the level of political discussions.

The American-PLO dialogue, slow as it is; Soviet-Israeli contacts; and the subtle shift in relations between the superpowers and their traditional clients can all be viewed in this context. Yet, the sad fact remains that the Middle East has yet to experience the exhilaration that progress on intractable issues can bring to war-torn regions hungry for peace and stability. It is unacceptable that as the superpowers destroy their intermediate-range nuclear missiles, Israel develops more advanced intermediate range delivery systems, having stockpiled nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. Nor has this behavior enhanced the stability of the area. If anything, it has forced other countries to seek similar weapon systems. This adds a new and more dangerous dimension to the regional arms race and dramatically raises the potential for destructive conflict.

Less apparent but equally significant is the ecological imperative, surely in itself a great stimulus for detente. The threat to the environment is unique in recognizing no borders. Although long seen as a menace to our wellbeing, pollution was treated in the past as a mere political pawn useful in winning arguments through apportioning blame on a range of industrial and economic disputes. Nowhere is a threat to natural resources more real than in the Middle East where water shortages and creeping desertification threaten the development of the whole region. Competition for water is a major contributor to regional tension to the extent that analysts have accurately predicted for decades that this strife has been a major cause of Arab-Israeli water wars. How much wiser it would be to treat this common adversity as a further incentive to peace to that cooperation can replace competition and all nations can share this most precious of resources in a manner more beneficial for all.

In an address to the Royal College of Defense Studies in London shortly before announcing Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank, I called for great acts of statesmanship by the parties to the conflict and by influential members of the international community. I went on to say on that occasion that an international conference was indispensable because it was in such a venue that statesmanship could be properly conducted.

The PLO's decision at Algiers to accept the principle of a two-state solution based on the political spirit of General Assembly Resolution 181 and the political boundaries defined in Security Council Resolution 242, as well as the renunciation of violence, must also be regarded as an act of statesmanship. It is from the Israeli Government that the next act of statesmanship must come. Once this happens, enabling us to move to discussions under international auspices, the field will be open for the permanent members of the Security Council to help bridge differences and guarantee a lasting and realistic settlement. The Israeli Government has lagged behind international consensus and, to a certain degree, behind public opinion within Israel itself. With a divided Cabinet structured around a reluctant coalition, it speaks with many voices, whereas Palestinian and Arab leaders have reached a broad agreement on the main thrust and principal components of a settlement. There seems to be little or no accord among the Israeli leadership on the fundamental questions pertaining to peace.

For example, does Israel accept the principle of the exchange of territory for peace? Will Israel stop insulting people's intelligence with its claim that there are two 242's—one that was applied to Sinai, and a different one to be applied to the Palestinian territories and Golan Heights? What does an acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 mean if it does not recognize the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war? Should Israel view its security concerns from a standpoint of continued hostility or within the framework of a permanent peace? Can Israel remain a predominantly Jewish and democratic state whilst holding onto the occupied territories with their 1.5 million Arabs? Is it in Israel's interest to have a permanently disenfranchised people under its wing, or should it recognize the same right of self-determination for the Palestinians as it has striven so hard to achieve for itself? Does Israel in the prevailing mood of detente wish to keep its people isolated from their neighbors?

While not wishing to tell the Israelis how they should resolve these questions, I believe that the peace process has been frustrated by the lack of clarity resulting from Israel's indecision. When they accepted Resolutions 242 and 338, the Arab states, and now the PLO, made it quite clear that the issue of security for all states in the region, including Israel within recognized borders, was as binding as the necessity for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. By renouncing violence, the PLO has signalled its willingness to resolve the conflict by peaceful means. By engaging its erstwhile adversaries in a serious and constructive dialogue, the Palestinians have shown that they can transcend all differences and are willing to turn a new leaf.

Successive Arab summits in the last decade or so have sought to assure Israel of a place in a reconstructed Middle East. It is now up to the Israelis to muster the courage for an active statesmanship. The Israeli election plan gives an emphatic no to a Palestinian state, no to negotiations with the PLO, and no to any change in the status of the occupied territories. In short, no to the cardinal principle of land for peace. What then does one negotiate? And how is one to regard Israel's repeated assertions of its willingness to negotiate with preconditions? Indeed, what are we to make of Israel's insistence that there should be no discussion of the final outcome of the settlement while the Israeli prime minister commits himself publicly to preventing the creation of a Palestinian state and to preventing the exchange of land for peace?

Last August President Husni Mubarak's 10 points addressed both form and substance of the search for peace, including the question of the settlements, the principle of the exchange of territory for peace, the protection of Israel's security, and the participation of

the Palestinians of east Jerusalem in the proposed elections. Israel must take note of the fact that although the Egyptian 10 points do not meet all the aspirations of the PLO, they have been given very thoughtful consideration in PLO and Palestinian circles. I believe that once the Israeli Government comes to grips with the objective conditions and new realities which have been the focus of my remarks, the possibility of rapid progress in the search for peace in the Middle East will be greatly enhanced.

I hope that Israel will come to the same conclusion with the help of its friends and supporters. The way forward then would be for all the parties to the conflict, including the PLO to enter negotiations in an international conference under United Nations auspices. I remain convinced that an international peace conference, attended by the permanent members of the Security Council, is indispensable to negotiations. Israel's agreement to this formula would, in itself, be no mean act of statesmanship.

I believe the following assertions are in order: Given the significant change in Palestinian aims, attitudes, and methods in the last several months, Israel's objections to discussions with the legitimate representatives of the Palestinians, perhaps understandable to some in the past, have now been obviated. Given the mood of global detente, the changing relations between the superpowers and their respective clients, given amended structure and mandate for international peace conference, given recent successes by the Security Council and the secretary general of the United Nations in negotiating regional conflicts, and given the current moderate stands of the General Assembly on world issues, Israel's fear of undue international pressure is no longer tenable. Given the emerging subgroupings in the Arab world, the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, and the fluid relations among states in the region, a new concept of peace that would be larger than the sum of its present components is now possible.

I further believe that progress towards peace in any part of the Middle East will have hugely beneficial effects on other unresolved conflicts in the region. We need not and indeed should not make progress on the Lebanese issue contingent on the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, but we can all agree, I am sure, that it is largely because of the Palestinian-Israeli struggle that it took so long for anything to be done to restore even a modicum of sanity in the Lebanon. Attempts by the Arab tripartite committee as well as by previous Arab committees to establish conditions for a dialogue among the warring Lebanese factions have been severely hampered by Israel's occupation of part of southern Lebanon. We are hopeful that at the end of the process currently underway, Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity will be restored.

No less important will be the impact of a Middle East settlement on the Iran-Iraq standoff. Although the guns are now silent, neither country has been free to fully pursue the goal of rebuilding its economy. Real peace between Iran and Iraq will have a great multiplying effect on the entire region. In the final analysis, however, it is individual human beings who will be the ultimate beneficiaries of peace and stability. We must not leave future generations a legacy of fear. We must eradicate the conditions that create a fertile ground for terrorism in all its manifestations. We must enable the peoples of the Middle East to look forward, not back. None of this will be possible in the absence of peace. Like Europe and the Far East, we must put the past behind us and look for ways to shed old enmities, forge new friendships, and create a climate for sustained growth. It is my fervent hope and prayer that this will come about in my lifetime.

King Husayn Returns From Italy, Canada, UK

JN2210200289 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn returned home this afternoon after working visits to Italy, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

His majesty was received at the airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Ibn-al-Husayn, His Royal Highness Prince Faysal Ibn-al-Husayn, the prime minister, the speaker of the upper house of Parliament, the chief of the Royal Court, Cabinet ministers, and a number of senior civic and military officials.

His majesty's political adviser, Mr 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, returned with his majesty.

Prince, Ibn-Shakir Receive Latvian Delegation

JN1810134889 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, today received the visiting deputy prime minister of the Soviet Republic of Latvia, Mr Alfred Chipanis, who is currently on a visit to Jordan to take part in the Soviet-Jordanian friendship week. His royal highness reviewed with Mr Chipanis and members of his delegation relations of cooperation and friendship between Jordan and the Soviet Union and efforts of the two countries' leadership for promoting these relations. His royal highness briefed the visiting delegation on the situation in Middle East and Israel's provocative measures in the occupied Arab territories.

The Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir earlier received in his office today the deputy prime minister of the Soviet Republic of Latvia, Mr Chipanis. The prime minister reviewed to the visiting guest Jordan's cooperation with the Soviet Union in the economic, cultural, and touristic fields, as well as matters of mutual interest. The premier also lauded the Soviet Union's clear and positive attitudes regarding the Arab issues, including of course the Middle East problem. Mr Chipanis reiterated his country's keen interest in strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

And, he also praised his majesty's stands and the good reputation Jordan enjoys on the regional as well as international levels.

Communists Reportedly Restore Unity for Elections

JN2210161089 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 21 Oct 89 p 24

["Exclusive"]

[Text] Amman—AL-WATAN has learned from sources close to the Jordanian opposition that the Jordanian Communist Party, which has been split since 1987, has recently restored its unity to compete in the elections as a unified party with 10 candidates.

A meeting was recently held between the two factions of the split—Dr Ya'qub Zayyadin, the party's secretary general and his supporters; and Fa'iq Warrad, the former secretary general who leads the other faction, and his supporters. During the meeting, Dr Zayyadin conducted a self-criticism session and a debate was held between the two factions, which ended with the reuniting of the party under the leadership of Secretary General Dr Ya'qub Zayyadin.

A third faction, which objected to the party's split, had remained on the fence, unbiased toward the other two factions. Representatives of this group were present at the meeting and returned to the party's ranks. They are represented by Hashim Gharayibah, a well-known Jordanian writer who was recently released after 10-year imprisonment.

The Jordanian Communist Party will fight the elections with 10 of its members, in addition to a number of its friends and supporters.

Airline Repays Debt by Selling Aircraft Fleet

JN1910100089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19-20 Oct p 6

[Report by Nirmin Murad, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The Royal Jordanian (RJ) airline has sold its fleet of aeroplanes to repay debt and now only owns two of its aeroplanes—a Tri-Star and a Boeing.

According to Husam abu-Ghazalah, director-general of the airlines, RJ was able to repay a debt of $192 million by selling these aeroplanes.

At a press conference held at the Plaza Hotel Wednesday, Abu-Ghazalah explained that RJ originally bought five aeroplanes but did not have the money to pay for them, "so the installments and the interest on these aeroplanes were very large."

RJ took a two-day loan from a conglomerate of banks, paid the full price of the aeroplanes to gain full ownership and then sold them and rented them back.

"The fact that the value of the dinar decreased after this deal was completed saved RJ many expenses," he noted.

Abu-Ghazalah stressed that such practices were being followed in many countries around the world and cited Gulf Air and Cathay Pacific as examples.

"In view of the very high costs of aeroplanes it is now becoming common practice to rent aeroplanes rather than buying them," Abu-Ghazalah said.

He further explained that RJ has made a deal whereby it would pay rent on the aeroplanes for 12 years and then "we would pay one dollar and gain ownership of the planes."

He declined answering a question on the budget of RJ until the final budget is approved by the board of directors and the cabinet. But he said that RJ does have a debt of JD 29 million to Jordan's petroleum corporation, "and there are plans now to pay this debt as soon as possible."

But he maintained that RJ cannot be assessed by the standards of a losing or profit making organisation "because we have certain advantages and assets which we can assess according to their financial value."

"The right to transport to certain areas, for example, have a monetary value," Abu-Ghazalah said.

He said that the new management has taken steps to "adapt to the new economic realities in the Kingdom" by halting their flight routes to Los Angeles, Miami and Athens as well as limiting the number of RJ employees in the United States offices.

According to Abu-Ghazalah, RJ will continue to support tourism to the Kingdom and will step up its efforts by training employees in offices outside the Kingdom" to answer question on tourism in Jordan." [quotation marks as received]

"We consider our offices outside the country tourism offices and we want to develop them further," Abu-Ghazalah added noting that RJ will endeavour to support projects within the Kingdom which would enhance tourism such as contributing to the establishment of hotels in touristic areas like the sea port of al-Aqabah and commercial land transportation.

"This industry (tourism) is immediately connected to our work and would enrich our busjness," Abu-Ghazalah said.

He added that the new management has introduced a "Meet the Management" programme whereby top executives in RJ would visit the different departments within RJ and talk to employees and listen to their problems and suggestions.

Abu-Ghazalah said that RJ does not have any plan to raise the salaries of its employees at this time "but we are studying ways to provide them with more services."

Editorial Accuses U.S. of 'Cutting Out' PLO

JN2110094689 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Oct 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Noble or Ignoble"]

[Text] There is something seriously wrong with American thinking; not when it comes to discussing efforts for peace in the Middle East but when it comes to the means to achieve it, and the nature of an envisaged peace settlement. It is not in any way new, but it is becoming more and more pronounced these days. So, there is nothing really surprising to hear reports that Washington has offered to sign a "memorandum of understanding" with Israel to rule out any Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) involvement in preliminary peace talks. No doubt, the American offer is timed to be seen as a pacifying gesture after the State Department criticised the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, for his open defiance of U.S. overtures towards realising the initial goal of launching direct Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. But, can it throw a curtain over the emerging scenario where neither the U.S. nor Israel has any intention to include the PLO in any talks, preliminary or otherwise. [no question mark as published]

For all technical purposes, the U.S., having chided Shamir for saying that he was willing to take on Washington, or any other party for that matter, in his opposition to contacts with the PLO, is now offering an olive branch to the Israeli leader as an essential element in pushing the peace process.

But, for practical purposes, what does the American offer, if indeed it is true that there is one, indicate? That Palestinians who do not have any links whatsoever with the PLO will be involved in "preliminary talks" and, who knows, can also assume the role of "final negotiators." So, technically or otherwise, it is aimed at cutting out the PLO from its central role in the peace process.

Obviously, there is litte significance that the U.S. attaches to its ongoing dialogue with the PLO in Tunis, except that it is a channel to "explain" American moves to the Palestinian leadership, of course, always with a suggestion that the PLO make no big fuss about whatever Washington does since everything is aimed at serving the noble purpose of achieving a just and durable solution to the Palestinian problem. But, aren't we hearing the rumblings of a "take-it-or-leave-it" coming from Washington to the PLO? It is bound to happen in public soon, and then where does it leave the Palestinians, who have acknowledged the PLO as their sole legitimate representative, in their quest to regain their national rights on their soil when it is clear that the fundamental aim of the American-Israeli exercise and carefully-enacted dramas is to cut out any exchange of land for peace?

Source Says PLO Has 'Central Role' in Talks

JN2110102089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Oct 89 p 1

[Article by JORDAN TIMES Staff Writer Mariam M. Shahin: "PLO Will Not Allow Any Dilution of its Central Role"]

[Text] Amman—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) must and will play a central role in any Israeli-Palestinian peace talks and the PLO leadership's move to spurn recent American proposals was aimed at reaffirming that the PLO's agreement to allow other parties to attempt to initiate a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue was not tantamount to a dilution of its central role, according to a top PLO official.

"If, by showing a willingness to allow for participation by Arab and non-Arab parties in attempts to initiate a top-level Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, the PLO has given anyone the impression that it is anything but the spokesman for the Palestinians, then I believe the impression has been clarified in Baghdad," said the PLO official, speaking to the JORDAN TIMES on condition of anonymity.

The Palestine Central Council (PCC), the 108-member policy making body of the PLO, concluded a two-day meeting in Baghdad Monday [16 October] stressing that the PLO was the only Palestinian partner with Israel in any peace negotiations and implying a rejection of an American proposal to help arrange Israeli-Palestinian talks.

The PCC declaration followed Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's proposal to hold Palestinian elections in the occupied territories, Egyptian President Husni Mubark's 10 clarification points on the Shamir proposal and a five-point plan by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, none of which have won PLO approval.

None of the plans mentioned the PLO by name, a prime reason why the PCC did not back it, said the PLO official in Amman.

Although the Baker plan did not mention the PLO, Shamir spoke out against it "because of what he saw as growing attempts by the U.S. government to get Israel to sit at the negotiations table with the PLO," goes the official Israeli version.

A well-informed source said: "It's not only the Baker proposals that actually deny the PLO a participating role in a dialogue and in the choosing of participants in Israeli-Palestinian talks. There have been many 'clear' messages that the Americans have been sending the PLO saying 'yes, our plan is just a modified version of the Shamir plan; take it or leave it.'"

Shamir's rejection of any PLO participation in an Egyptian-proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, which would

be a preliminary step to elections in the occupied territories, was supported by a "memorandum of understanding" which the Bush administration has offered to prepare, covering Shamir's main objections to Baker's five-point plan, according to the JERUSALEM POST. PLO involvement would be ruled out and preliminary talks would be restricted to the Shamir Plan, according to the POST.

"For how long does the U.S. government want to ignore that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people? When Americans completely omit any mention of PLO representation in any Palestinian-Israeli peace talks they are omitting the participation of the legitimate and popular representatives of one of the two concerned parties. Thus, practically, a legitimate, feasible peace proposal is non-existent," said the PLO official who spoke to the JORDAN TIMES.

The PCC statement issued in Baghdad said that the Baker proposals were only a variation of the Israeli plan and just another attempt aimed at choosing non-PLO representatives to participate in a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Shamir has been quoted as saying: "Our 'peace' initiative is, for the Arabs, an alternative to the PLO—not an adjunct to the PLO." He said he was not prepared to talk to the PLO although it had "influence" among people in the occupied territories, because "the PLO wants a Palestinian state, and they do not want a Jewish state, even though they proclaim otherwise..."

The PLO has publicly accepted U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, thus recognising the right of Israel to exist.

The PLO official confirmed the organisation's willingness to cooperate with Egyptian, American, Swedish and U.N. as well as Israeli peace-seekers. U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said after the PCC meeting that Baker would continue working with Israeli and Egyptian officials to get peace negotiations started, but she made no mention of the PLO.

"If we are ever to get the process off the ground, Palestinians are going to have to find a way to respond positively," she said.

After a conversation held earlier this week between Bush and Shamir an apparent agreement was made to put a hold on American efforts until Shamir visits the U.S. in mid-November.

The PLO official in Amman said: "All I can do is repeat the PLO and the PLO alone has the right to name the Palestinian delegates to any talks with Israel, whether they be Palestinians inside the occupied territories or outside."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said Thursday [19 October] at a meeting of Cairo's American Chamber of Commerce that "Shamir will have to leave the West Bank and Gaza. Definitely, we are working on that today." He added that Israel would have no choice but to trade land for peace if it wanted stability in the region.

'Awn Considers Al-Ta'if Solution 'Trap'

NC2110153089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] A source close to Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn said today that some media reports about the alleged success of the al-Ta'if talks tends to create a false optimistic atmosphere prior to marketing a pitfall solution before it ripens. The source added that this solution, as it is being prepared now, is a trap for all the Lebanese people, not merely for one group.

Muhammad al-Maghribi, Gen 'Awn's special diplomatic envoy to London, said in a statement to the BBC that Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's optimism has not been accompanied by signs indicating that Syria intends to sign a pledge that would commit Damascus to leave Beirut and all of Lebanon.

Meeting Seen as 'Capitulation'

NC2110151889 Paris AFP in English 1507 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Beirut, Oct 21 (AFP)—Lebanese Christian leader General Michel 'Awn has charged that agreements on reforms being prepared by Lebanese MPs meeting in Saudi Arabia represent a "capitulation" to Syria, a source close to Gen. 'Awn said here Saturday.

Anti-Syrian Christian MPs were expected to announce their final position on an Arab peace plan for Lebanon after Syria's refusal to accept a timetable to remove its troops from the country.

Gen. 'Awn, who heads Lebanon's anti-Syrian cabinet, said "certain media, optimistic about a successful outcome to the al-Ta'if meeting, aim to force a capitulation of (Lebanon's) unity and national dignity," the source said. On Thursday, he called on the 62 deputies—half Christian and half Muslim—to suspend their talks in the Saudi Arabian resort of al-Ta'if and return to Lebanon to consult the masses.

Saudi diplomats have led last-ditch efforts for an agreement since Friday in al-Ta'if, to persuade MPs in the Christian camp to accept the peace plan drafted by Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal returned Friday from what he described as two days of "fruitful" talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and other senior officials.

The Christian deputies have said they would endorse political reforms earlier agreed upon only when their demands for a Syrian troop pullout had been satisfied.

U.S. Reportedly Views 'Awn as Obstacle to Peace

JN2210074689 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 19 Oct 89 p 1, 23

[Report by 'Abd-al-Karim Abu-al-Nasr in Paris]

[Excerpt] AL-QABAS has learned from ranking Arab sources that the U.S. Administration in the past two days held contacts with many Arab and foreign sides concerned in the developments in the Lebanese situation. During these contacts, it affirmed clearly that the Lebanese deputies' meetings in al-Ta'if cannot succeed, nor can a solution to the Lebanese problem be reached, unless General Michel 'Awn, head of the military government in Lebanon, is removed or distanced. It also affirmed that the continuing presence of 'Awn in a position of authority will lead to thwarting any effort to save Lebanon and establish peace there in accordance with the formula prepared by the higher Arab tripartite committee. [passage omitted]

AFP reports Islamic Jihad Threat to Deputies

NC2210154189 Paris AFP in English 1523 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Beirut, Oct 22 (AFP)—A telephone caller claiming to represent the Islamic Jihad organization Sunday issued a death threat against Lebanese MPs [members of parliament] if they approve an Arab plan for Lebanon currently being debated in Saudi Arabia.

Speaking in Arabic, a caller to a Western news agency here said Islamic Jihad warned "all who are meeting in al-Ta'if (Saudi Arabia) against accepting the American document that consecrates the hegemony of the racist Maronite minority over the oppressed Moslems. Acceptance means certain death."

Islamic Jihad, which is holding two Americans hostage, has in the past cautioned news agencies against accepting as authentic all communiques in its name that are not accompanied by a photograph of one of the captives.

Lebanese parliamentarians have reached an agreement in al-Ta'if that would shift much of the country's executive power from the Maronite Christian president to Moslem political leaders.

But the accord does not abolish concessional power-sharing in Lebanon and would leave the presidency in the hands of a Maronite Christian.

The agreement in al-Ta'if, based on proposals drafted by a three-nation Arab committee, has yet to be formally announced because of deep differences between Christian and Moslem MPs on a withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

VOL Reports on Jihad Threat

NC2210210889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] In Beirut, an unidentified person claiming to be speaking for the Islamic Jihad Organization has threatend Lebanese deputies with death if they approve the Arab tripartite committee's document on a solution in Lebanon. He said that the organization has undertaken to defend the dignity of Muslims and resist the

forces of arrogance who are hostile to Muslims and the oppressed everywhere in the world.

Al-Huss Urges Deputies To Pass Draft Document

NC2210091089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss made a statement today in which he said: In following what is taking place in al-Ta'if, we are living through decisive and historic hours. At this juncture in our national life, we appeal to the honorable deputies to rise up to their historic responsibility and unanimously approve the draft document that is the outcome of their talks. They undoubtedly realize that the alternative to their agreement is an unimaginable catastrophe. If some parts of the draft do not satisfy this or that group of deputies, the deputies concerned must be aware that none of these parts is worth the possible fate. The truth is that Lebanon's fate—homeland, society, and state—is in the balance today. We have too high an opinion of any of the deputies meeting in al-Ta'if to suspect that he might ignore this fact as a result of pressure or terrorism exercised against him.

Ibrahimi Briefs Al-Huss, 'Awn on Al-Ta'if Pact

Confers With Al-Huss

NC2210203689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Arab Envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi held a 1-hour meeting with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today. He is expected to go to B'abda later for a meeting with Michel 'Awn.

As Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah told Radio Monte Carlo, Ibrahimi will brief Al-Huss and 'Awn on the content of the national accord document prior to its ratification and declaration. In the event they agree on it, Ibrahimi will give them an official invitation, on behalf of the Arab tripartite committee, to attend the Lebanese deputies' final session, due to be held in Jeddah on Tuesday.

Meets With 'Awn at Palace

NC2210204889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi arrived at the Presidential Palace at 2200 tonight and immediately met with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn to brief him on the results of the al-Ta'if meetings. Prime Minister 'Awn will hold a news conference following the meeting. [passage omitted]

Comments on Meeting With 'Awn

NC2210224689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Following his meeting with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn from 2200 to 2300 tonight, Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi said: I have nothing to say. I had the honor of informing Gen 'Awn of the results of the al-Ta'if meetings and we exchanged views on these results and on the future phases, just as I did earlier during my meeting with Dr Salim al-Huss.

Ibrahimi added: Very regrettably, I have nothing more to say at this stage other than that we are still optimistic. We are happy with the cold climate in Beirut [as heard], and we hope that the steps that have started will continue to benefit the Lebanese people, end their tragedy, and recover their full rights.

Meanwhile, the Information Bureau in the Prime Minister's office declared this evening that Prime Minister Gen Michel 'Awn cannot express satisfaction with any remarks, amendments, or reassurances that he has not seen. But regarding his stand on the internal reforms and on increasing the number of deputies, Gen 'Awn noted that this does not concern him. Gen 'Awn said his concern focuses on the fact that the sovereignty issue should not be abused.

Michel 'Awn Rejects Al-Ta'if Peace Agreement

NC2210222189 Paris AFP in English 2218 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Beirut, Oct 22 (AFP)—Lebanese Christian leader Michel 'Awn on Sunday rejected an Arab peace plan for his country approved earlier in the day by the Lebanese parliament meeting in Saudi Arabia. He told a late night press conference here that to accept the accord "would be a crime for me."

But he added: "I will obey the public will: if the people follow me I will confront the agreement. If they want to follow the MPs [members of parliament] I will resign."

The agreement, endorsed by a vote of 59 to 3 during a plenary session in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, calls for major political reforms in Lebanon but does not meet Gen. 'Awn's long-standing demand for a precise timetable governing a withdrawal of Syrian forces.

'Awn Details Rejection

NC2210235589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2245 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn tonight rejected the al-Ta'if agreement, especially the clause on sovereignty. He said that the deputies participated in the al-Ta'if meeting without agreement on this in B'abda. He said that the deputies have gone too far, transcending the powers given to them by the constitutional government. 'Awn indicated that the basis of the agreement with the deputies was to discuss a national accord paper and not

to approve a document. He said that the deputies forgot that it is not in their power to deal with the subject of a bilateral agreement because the sovereignty issue does not concern them.

Gen 'Awn said that the al-Ta'if agreement legitimizes the crime that has been committed in Lebanon since 1988 and that neither officials nor the people can forget the past experiences from the Cairo agreement up to the 17 May agreement. He said that the agreement aims to transfer the political decisionmaking center from the free area to the occupied area. He wondered: Why play on words if the intentions regarding the withdrawal are sincere?

Gen 'Awn said his views and those of the deputies are diametrically opposed. He said that the decision is for the people to make. If the people decide to support his stand, he will be with them and lead them until the end; but if they reject it, he will abandon the leadership. He said that the agreement conflicts with the aspirations of the people and the people are called upon to express their opinion.

Gen 'Awn denounced the United States and accused it of engineering the plot. He rejected the U.S. support for the agreement before it was announced and before it reached those concerned because this support constitutes a pressure and [word indistinct]. He also ruled out regarding war and fighting as the alternative, emphasizing reliance on resistance and on waiting for better circumstances and political and diplomatic efforts. He said that he will begin consultations with the politicians and influential figures present in Lebanon tomorrow.

Al-Musawi Rules Out Results From Al-Ta'if

NC2110073889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] His Eminence 'Abbas al-Musawi has stressed that anyone who expects any change in the Maronite political stand is deluding himself. The Maronite position seeks to use foreign forces to entrench Maronite privileges and domination of Lebanon, he asserted.

In a statement to our radio, Al-Musawi said that the al-Ta'if conference is a continuation of previous plots. It will prolong the Lebanese crisis and the Maronites' domination of the Lebanese situation. He added: It is only natural that we should refuse to have anything to do with Lausanne, Geneva, or al-Ta'if. We do not expect any result from the al-Ta'if meetings because the problem is being tackled by deputies whom we consider to be the weakest party in Lebanon and who therefore cannot formulate a solution.

Amal Movement Rejects Al-Ta'if Solution

NC2310064089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] The Amal Movement has announced that is is not concerned with the ongoing meetings in al-Ta'if. The movement rejects the solution which has been worked out there because it consecrates a confessional regime that defends neither justice nor equality. The Amal Movement emphasized its demand for a change of regime, asserting that the fighting will not come to an end with an accord that does not establish an integrated regime for the republic. The movement declared that the Syrian presence is legitimate and that sovereignty is jeopardized by the Israeli enemy, not by Syria, which is endeavoring to prevent the partition of Lebanon.

Colonel 'Akif Haydar, deputy leader of the Amal Movement, assailed the ongoing meetings in al-Ta'if, describing them as an attempt to vent the frustration that has been going on for more than 7 months. Haydar was addressing a seminar held in al-Biqa' yesterday.

Amal's Nabih Birri Denies Escalating Demands

NC2010154289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic GMT 1500 20 Oct 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has denied that he has escalated his demands. He emphasized that he does not insist on the immediate abolition of secterianism but would accept a gradual abolition, noting that this represents the utmost moderation and is a significant concession. Minister Birri asserted that a sectarian solution would retain the political, constitutional, and administrative flaws in the Lebanese system of government and that radical, and not cosmetic, surgery is required.

Minister Birri praised the role of fraternal Syria in saving Lebanon from its ordeal and confronting the Israeli occupier.

Minister Birri made this statement at a press conference he held today on topical Lebanese issues.

Further on Press Conference

NC2010180589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri has commented on the al-Ta'if meetings: Lebanon is like a car skidding out of control. We are not prepared to be a passenger or a driver. Any solution that does not fix precise dates for abolishing political secterianism, regardless of how many states approve it, cannot serve more than a short or long truce. Consequently, we are not concerned about [word indistinct] of al-Ta'if. A secterian solution does not commit or bind us.

At a press conference today, Minister Birri asserted that Syria is interested in the national aspect [of the Lebanese issue] just as we are. He added that the internal aspect is purely Lebanese. He said that the secterian solution is treason, and deputies know it. He added: Our stands are moderate. Our acceptance of the abolition of secterianism in stages represents the utmost moderation and significant concession.

Birri further said: The present Constitution is 10 times better than the Arab document. Anyone who believes that the problem in Lebanon is that of a person is deluding himself. The problem lies in the institution called political Maronism, including the range of people who preceded Bashir al-Jumayyil and will be there after Michel 'Awn.

Junblatt Accuses Syria of 'Letting Him Down'

NC2310063289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, has affirmed that he will approve the national accord agreement at Syria's request. He added that the settlement reached under the auspices of Saudi Arabia will be fruitless. He said the Maronites' sole goal is to get the Syrians out of Lebanon. They will succeed in this and become stronger than they have ever been, he asserted.

Junblatt accused Syria of letting him down and added: The Syrian regime is not the same any more. It has no courage left, it is making concessions step by step, and it is weakening.

Iran's Mohtashemi Reportedly Visits Al-Biqa'

NC2210182689 Paris AFP in English 1754 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, Oct 22 (AFP)—Iran's former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi is currently visiting Lebanon, the pro-Iranian Lebanese Hizballah group said Sunday but declined to give any further details.

The AL-DIYAR daily, closely linked with the Christian military forces of Lebanese Christian leader Michel 'Awn, meanwhile reported that Mr. Mohtashemi had attended a rally Saturday celebrating the birth of the Prophet Mohammad in the Syrian-controlled al-Biqa' valley of eastern Lebanon.

The newspaper quoted him as saying: "The Iranian brothers will persevere in the path forged by the Ayatollah Khomeyni and in their support to the Hizballah in Lebanon."

AL-DIYAR also reported a statement by a Hizballah leader, Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik, denying that Mr. Mohtashemi was under house arrest in Iran.

The former minister was with the Islamic fighters in southern Lebanon, where the Hizballah's Islamic Resistance paramilitary forces maintain positions facing the Israeli-occupied territory. [passage omitted]

Army Buildup Reported in East Beirut Areas

NC2310071289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] People arriving from Beirut's eastern areas have reported that an intensive show of force by the Lebanese Forces has been observed on a number of streets. This is unprecedented in the area since the clashes which broke out between the Lebanese Forces and Army troops in February. The same reports added that the al-Yarzah army has been massing troops in various areas. Sources close to the al-Yarzah command said that the Army has stepped up its level of preparedness as a precautionary measure to enable it to face up to the requirements of the current stage.

In another development, National Liberal Party leader Dany Sham'un has expelled three of the leading figures in his party who support General Michel 'Awn.

Group Claims Killing of 3 Syrian Soldiers

NC2110134089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] The Martyr Riyad Taha group has announced that its members hurled an explosive charge under a Syrian military truck in Kafr Danis in the Rashayya area [in al-Biqa'] on Thursday evening. The blast left three Syrian soldiers dead.

Missile Fired at 'Awn Camp; No Casualties

NC2110175589 Paris AFP in English 1655 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, Oct 21 (AFP)—A missile landed Saturday in an army camp controlled by Lebanese Christian leader General Michel 'Awn, in the second serious violation of a cease-fire that stopped six months of factional fighting, military sources said.

No casualties resulted from Saturday's missile fire on Suqk al-Gharb, 10 kilometres (six miles) east of here, where Gen. 'Awn's army is opposed by Druze militia leader Walid Junblatt backed by the Syrian Army, the source said.

The mortar was the second violation of a September 23 cease-fire, brokered by the Arab League, between Gen. 'Awn's mainly Christian forces and Syrian troops backed by their Lebanese Muslim allies. [passage omitted]

Committee Formed To Investigate Plane Crash

JN2210055289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry last night summoned Turkish Ambassador to Damascus Erhan Tuncel and informed him of the Syrian authorities' decision to form a special committee to investigate the incident of the Turkish plane's crash near the Syrian-Turkish borders.

The ministry asserted that cooperation between Syria and Turkey was necessary to find out the truth of what had happened and to set strict rules to prevent the repetition of such a regrettable incident in the future.

The Foreign Ministry declared that regardless of the results of this investigation, it hoped that the incident will not affect the existing relations of good neighborliness and friendship between the two countries. It also asked the ambassador to convey the Syrian Government's condolences to the Turkish Government and to the families of the victims of this painful incident.

Algerian Foreign Minister Visits Damascus

Ghazali Arrives 22 Oct

JN2210185489 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Sayed Ghazali arrived in Damascus at 2000 today on a visit to Syria.

He was received at Damascus international airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry staff, the Algerian ambassador to Damascus, and the embassy staff.

Received by Khaddam

JN2310053289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] At 2045 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Sayed Ghazali and his delegation.

Attending the meeting were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the Algerian ambassador to Damascus, and Mustafa 'Umran, director of the Arab homeland's desk at the Foreign Ministry.

During the meeting, the talks dealt with the situation in the Arab sphere and the progress of the Arab tripartite committee's efforts on Lebanon.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent upon arrival in Damascus, Ghazali stressed that the objective of his visit to Damascus, where he was stopping on his way to al-Ta'if to contribute to the efforts by the Arab tripartite committee to achieve a solution to the painful tragedy of the Lebanese people, is to hold talks with Syrian officials and to learn their opinions on current Arab issues.

Ghazali added that the nature of relations between fraternal Algeria and Syria needs no further explanation, and that they are characterized by fraternity and confidence on all levels, particularly in the relations between presidents Chadli Bendjedid and Hafiz al-Asad. He added that it is natural that this confidence be used in all that will serve Arab interests.

Concluding his statement, he said: I express my sincerest appreciation and respect for the Syrian president, government, and people.

Need for Troops' Presence in Lebanon Explained

JN1610124289 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0848 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Damascus, 16 Oct (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN says that those participating in al-Ta'if meeting who try to use the Syrian presence in Lebanon as a pretext to reject or obstruct reform do not want in fact to settle the Lebanese crisis and end the suffering of the Lebanese.

Under the headline "The Syrian Presence Is A Guarantee For Lebanon's Unity," the paper adds: The Syrian presence has never been an obstacle to national accord. In fact, it has constituted a pressure force for establishing accord and reconciliation. Moreover, the Syrian military presence came in response to Lebanese calls and appeals."

The paper continues: If any one has the right to call for the Syrian forces' withdrawal it is the representatives of the areas where the Syrian forces are stationed. However, none of the deputies of these areas demanded the withdrawal of Syrian forces. They hold to the Syrian forces and consider them a guarantee for Lebanon's Arabism and unity against the partitionist scheme and the isolationist, Zionized conspiracy to divide Lebanon into warring, sectarian mini-states.

The paper also wonders at the demand by 'Awn and his isolationist faction for the Syrian forces' withdrawal, saying that 'Awn and his faction did not speak about the Israeli occupation of a part of Southern Lebanon.

After refuting the stands of 'Awn and his faction, who did not fire a single shot at the Israeli invasion army and did not provide any support to the Lebanese national resistance which is defending Lebanon's land, liberty, and sovereignty, TISHRIN says: Before these facts, the calls by 'Awn and his faction for the Syrian forces' withdrawal and their rejection of reform before this withdrawal, are suspicious calls, and are only an excuse to reject reform.

The paper concludes: The Lebanese deputies are well aware of all these facts. The overwhelming majority of those deputies have countered the isolationist's proposals in al-Ta'if and their attempts to link reform to the

withdrawal. Those deputies called for efforts to end the Israeli occupation which threatens Lebanon's future and unity.

AL-BA'TH Cited on Lebanese Sovereignty

JN1710130089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Oct 89

[From the press review]

[Text] In today's editorial, the newspaper AL-BA'TH deals with the complications and obstacles the isolationists have placed on the road to implementing the Arab document with all its clauses, particularly the issue of internal reform, national accord, and the concept of Lebanese sovereignty.

Under the headline, "The Concept of Sovereignty and the Isolationists' Logic," AL-BA'TH says: To those who raise the question of Lebanese sovereignty in al-Ta'if, we say that it is an axiom which is not open to debate and does not provoke anyone who believes in Lebanon's independence, freedom, and Arabism. Indeed, whoever resorts to raising this issue as an obstacle on the road to solving the Lebanese crisis, reaffirms his involvement in the conspiracy which is intended to foil the efforts being exerted and to return to fighting and rivalry. This explains the extent of the pressure being exerted by General 'Awn on anyone who raises this issue.

AL-BA'TH adds: Lebanese sovereignty over all Lebanese territory, whether with or without Syrian approval, belongs to the Lebanese and nobody else. This will be when the war ends and accord and reform become meaningful, and the Lebanese security force becomes capable of enforcing the law and halting the cycle of violence. This will happen when a national unity government has been established—a government which will never face any difficulties in reaching an understanding with Syria regarding the taking over of full responsibility for the Lebanese land. The Syrian soldier will then return to carry out his pan-Arab and national responsibilities awaiting him in the battle of Arab destiny with the Zionist enemy.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Lebanon's destiny, future, and survival are greater than 'Awn's charlatanism and the heresy of whoever claims to represent the Lebanese. Lebanon's unity, independence, and Arabism will not be encumbered by such a reckless general. Therefore, the solution in Lebanon will only be in the interest of all the Lebanese, and with whatever brings about security, unity, and justice for the entire Lebanese people.

TISHRIN Defends Syrian Presence in Lebanon

JN1810084489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Oct 89

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper TISHRIN reviews the fraternal role of salvation played by the Syrian Arab Forces in Lebanon through stopping the civil war and foiling the 'Awn clique's attempts, and those who support this clique, to expand in Lebanon and to impose the isolationist and divisionist plan.

TISHRIN says: Our forces have valiantly confronted the Israeli aggression and saved Lebanon from the claws of Zionism.

TISHRIN adds: Thus, the isolationists felt that the obstacle facing their evil plans lies in the Syrian Arab Forces' presence. Therefore, they ignited their hidden rancour against Syria and collaborated with its enemies, Israel and the Iraqi regime.

TISHRIN points out that the Lebanese deputies' meetings in al-Ta'if have exposed the true intentions of the isolationist clique, their deception, and maneuvers. Every time there is a chance to achieve some progress toward a solution, 'Awn's clique plants a new mine and fabricates a problem to disrupt efforts to save Lebanon and achieve accord.

The paper adds: There is a strong belief that the isolationists are not sincere in their talk about independence, sovereignty, and solution. Had they been so, their positions would have changed. They are now trying to evade and circumvent all the Arab efforts to end the crisis through raising the issue of the Syrian presence in Lebanon. Syria has repeatedly said that it is neither satisfied with staying in Lebanon nor has it any desire to do so, and that it is ready to withdraw its forces as soon as the circumstances that led to the these forces entering Lebanon have ended. Syria has also agreed that priority should be given to reforms and national accord among the Lebanese.

Nevertheless, the issue of redeploying Syrian Forces will be discussed after implementation of reforms has begun and after the establishment of the national accord government, and not before. Any attempt to change or amend these priorities will neither serve Lebanon, help end its crisis, or succeed.

'Isolationist' Obstacles at Al-Ta'if Assailed

JN1910163189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The isolationist clique continues to place obstacles before the al-Ta'if conference under the pretext of sovereignty, as though Lebanese sovereignty were limited to a small group in Lebanon and did not concern the vast majority of the people. In fact, it is as though this small minority is a representative the Lebanese empowered to decide what should and should not be given to them. For example, the al-Yarzah general declares war against the citizens of Beirut, the Mountain, and the al-Biqa' under the pretext of sovereignty. Had

his shells been able to reach Tripoli and Sidon, they would have struck the citizens in northern and southern Lebanon in the name of sovereignty. However, he does not at all refer to the Israeli occupation of a part of southern Lebanon, or to Lahd's gang in southern Lebanon, which is supported, financed, armed, and used by Israel to demolish the houses of the innocent people in the southern cities and villages, damage their farms, and destroy their property.

The flagrant Zionist aggression against Lebanese sovereignty does not raise the general's concern, and consequently he is neither required to fire even one bullet on the Israeli forces nor even offer one bullet to the Lebanese nationalist resistance, which is fighting the Zionist occupiers.

In al-Ta'if, a group of deputies from the East Beirut area persistently rejects the Arab accord document as long as they cannot not obtain guarantees concerning sovereignty. Therefore, this group of deputies calls for scheduling the Syrian withdrawal contrary to the will of the majority of Lebanese deputies, which considers the Syrian presence a guarantee of regaining sovereignty, unity, Arabism, and the independence of the fraternal country.

Like the al-Yarzah general, from whom they receive instructions, these deputies do not speak about the necessity of pooling all Lebanese capabilities to secure the Israeli withdrawal, which threatens Lebanon's unity and existence. After all, what does sovereignty mean? Does it not mean the freedom of all Lebanese people, their participation in running their affairs, utilizing their resources, and spreading authority over their territory? Doesn't sovereignty mean enabling the Lebanese people to freely elect their leaders and representatives, and opt for the form of government they want? Does it not mean that Lebanon's Army should be the army of all Lebanese and not of a small minority, and that Lebanon's Army should be a protector of the country's borders and a defender of the homeland's soil, rather than a sectarian army which directs its artillery on its people and destroys their homes and property?

Within the framework of this concept of sovereignty, a concept recognized by all world constitutions, we may ask: What did the isolationists and their sectarian army offer on the altar of Lebanese sovereignty? Did they confront the Israeli invasion? Did they fire one bullet on the Zionists? Did they support the Lebanese resistance? They did nothing of the sort. On the contrary, they made it easy for the Zionists to occupy the country, and their role in this regard is well known. On the other hand, the Lebanese people, whose will and desire they have ignored, have confronted the Zionist invaders. The Lebanese people have also waged a valiant nationalist resistance that inflicted heavy losses on the invaders. Yet, the Syrian forces in the fraternal country have waged fierce battles in defense of Lebanon's land, and the al-Biqa' skies have witnessed the greatest air battles. Syria offered all forms of support to the Lebanese nationalist resistance, and provided it with the means of success and continuation. All that was for the sake of Lebanese sovereignty.

The isolationists, who are putting up obstacles in al-Ta'if, are not concerned with the Lebanese sovereignty, but they are working toward its destruction. This is because sovereignty requires the realization of national accord, the removal of all aspects of injustice and coercion from the Lebanese community, the spread of justice and equality, the acknowledgment of equal opportunities, and the building of a national army to protect the borders and to remain alert to all dangers against the homeland and liberate it from the Zionist invaders. Such a great task requires the cooperation of all Lebanese, as well as the cooperation of Lebanon and Syria. For their people are one people having the same history, destiny, and security. Solidarity among all Lebanese, and solidarity between Syria and Lebanon will lead to the expulsion of Israel, the restoration of sovereignty, and the liberation of the occupied land. Only in this way can sovereignty be maintained, and not through involving Lebanon in a whirlpool of sectarian conflicts.

Strength of Palestinian Uprising Reaffirmed

JN2110092289 Damascus Voice of Arab Egypt in Arabic
1900 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] O brothers in Egypt and the Arab homeland: It has become clear that after 23 months of struggle, the valiant intifadah is strong enough not to be undermined from inside or outside. The intifadah cannot be deceived by appeasing statements or a suspect American plan. It has confirmed that it alone has the right to make the decisions in expressing the hopes and aspirations of the Palestinian people. It has also become clear that the intifadah has become a nightmare to the occupation forces and a daily concern for the Zionist authorities, who are trying to end it, but in vain, despite all methods of repression and terrorism used against it.

The intifadah Call No 47, which sums up the Palestinian demands clearly, is evident proof that the will of the Palestinian people is of the strongest nature. It proves that the intifadah will have the final word, reaffirming that there is no objective above that of liberating the land and regaining rights.

The call reiterates the Palestinian people's rejection of all capitulation proposals and suspect settlement proposals, beginning with the Shamir plan and ending with James Baker's proposal. What is also obvious in the call is the intifadah's strong and clear rejection of those who are still wagering on an unbiased American attitude or on differences within the Israeli coalition between supporters and opponents of peace efforts.

After all these months of struggle, during which the intifadah has lived with tribulation, difficulties, and

martyrs, and after all the political and publicity victories—whether on the international scene or in the heavy losses inflicted by the intifadah on the Israeli economy and the exhaustion of the resources of the occupation army, which has become an army that pursues children and suppresses women—Israel's real terrorist and aggressive nature has been exposed.

These scenes became the main story of the world media when they began to announce their disgust at the behavior of the Israeli soldier and the unjustified terrorism practiced by Israel in its desperate attempt to prevent the Palestinian people from acquiring their legitimate rights.

Israel does not seek peace; it is trying to keep the Palestinian people as refugees on their own land and outside. All procrastination attempts against the Palestinian people's cause come under this category in order to meet Israeli desires and schemes aimed at maintaining the present situation that perpetuates its aggressive interests.

The long experience of the intifadah and its various daily struggles have taught it to be very conscious of the Israeli games. It has reaffirmed the determination of the Palestinian people to keep confronting the occupation forces to the very end in order to regain the national rights of the Palestinian people to their land, homeland, and dignity. Reinforcing Arab support for the intifadah will increase its weight and strength, whether in confronting Zionist arrogance and terrorism or in pressuring the U.S. Administration and world opinion to respond to genuine peace calls through an international conference, which would enable the Palestinian people obtain their full rights.

Commentator Questions Arab Responses to Israel

JN2110114489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Palestine Broadcast: "Abu-Salim's Talk" feature]

[Text] May peace and blessings of God be upon you. We hope that those devoting their efforts and time to meetings and contacts—organized by the Zionists and their allies and which they call steps to achieve peace or a settlement—understand that they are being dragged into a scheme drawn up by the Zionist enemy and its allies, and to which, therefore, they are contributing themselves. This scheme is completely consistent with many past and current attempts to cause and ignite disruptions in the Arab world. The entire purpose of the dialogues, meetings, proposals and plans organized by the Zionists and their allies has but one interpretation: They are an attempt to undermine national and pan-Arab attitudes and create a state of confusion among Arab ranks. This move constitutes a justification for people who do not wish to shoulder their pan-Arab obligations on the pretext that there is no unified Arab position, vision, or goal. These people ignore pan-Arab commitments and resolutions and even what they call the Arab peace plan.

It is not hard to understand these facts. The first issue referred to by the Zionists and their allies when talking about peace or about embarking on the peace or settlement process, as they claim, is to halt the national Palestinian struggle represented by our people's valiant intifadah in the occupied homeland. This is the actual objective behind all their contacts, meetings, and dialogues and behind all their proposals and plans. A foreign friend of mine wondered the other day: Why are you, the Arabs, unable to unify your position, vision, policy, and ranks? And why is there no unified stand or opinion to respond to the proposals of the Zionists and their allies? What positive aspects are there in the proposals offered by the Zionists and their allies for you to disagree over and to cause disunity in Arab positions and ranks?

He went on: Why do the Arabs act this way when it is very clear that these proposals and plans are designed to liquidate the Palestine question and Palestinian people's rights and subjugate the entire Arab nation and its decisionmaking to the hegemony of the Zionists and their allies? The major point of these proposals and plans is to reject the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, to deny the Palestinian people their right to repatriation and self-determination, and to disavow all the Palestinian people's rights—even those approved by many UN resolutions.

The foreign friend continues: And what does it mean to deal with actions or proposals by the Zionist enemy and its allies, although the intifadah itself rejects them and calls for boycotting them? And why entertain these proposals when the intifadah maintains that the Arab nation's commitment toward shouldering and honoring its pan-Arab obligations and supporting, protecting, maintaining the intifadah and rallying around it and its means and objectives is the proper way to deal with the Palestine question and the conflict?

We see that the Zionist enemy and its allies refuse to respond to the demands and real measures to achieve a just peace despite the many concessions offered. They also reject any Arab viewpoint or proposal no matter how much it is in their favor. Thus, we wonder with our foreign friend: Why should we deal with the plans and proposals of the enemy and its allies? This enemy and its allies want to evade the pressure of international opinion, which urges a response to the requirements of peace in the region. Therefore, they coat their proposals with talk about peace.

Because their objective is to exhaust our people's intifadah—and because they are afraid of its repercusions and of its consolidation and expansion, and because they want to sow confusion and differences in the national and pan-Arab ranks—what is our objective in dealing with these issues? Those who are dealing with these issues should know that they are giving the impression that they see positive points in them and that they seem

convinced that these issues can constitute serious steps toward a just peace, provided that they are beautified or retouched.

These people are also trying to convince us of something else. They say that the intransigent elements in the Zionist enemy camp, referring to the Likud, are about to collapse. Why? They do not say it is because the Likud has failed to halt the escalation of pan-Arab struggle or to implement the plan to liquidate the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's rights. They say the Likud is nearing collapse because of internal Zionist pressure from the Labor Party, although Rabin, who is one of its major pillars, is slaughtering our people inside and outside the occupied land. They also say it is because of pressure applied on them by their allies. This is as if their allies, as soon as they heard that there could be a disagreement between Labor and the Likud, had not hurried to the occupied land to settle matters and consolidate everyone's support around the Shamir plan. Sometimes they say that the Likud is about to collapse under the pressure placed on it by having to respond and deal with these moves.

We have said, and say again now, that if we all believe in the influence of the intifadah and its positive example and effects, it is our mission, and that of every Arab, to work to consolidate and intensify these positive effects. This has been urged by national and pan-Arab resolutions extending full support to the intifadah and by settling all other differences in the Arab arena in order to rally all Arab efforts and potential against the enemy schemes and measures. The goal of rallying all Arab resources and efforts around the intifadah and its methods and objectives will entrench and expand the positive effects of the intifadah and force the enemy and its allies to reconsider their calculations and respond to the requirements of a just peace.

Israel's Rejection of Baker Plan Discussed

JN2210191289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Oct 89

[From the Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return" feature]

[Text] Brother militants: The position adopted by leaders of the Zionist right-wing Likud Party regarding the plan proposed by U.S. Secretary of State Baker which, in substance, is based on Shamir's plan to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, was nothing more than a series of no's.

With the first no, on his own behalf and on behalf of the Likud's leadership, Shamir said no to Baker's proposals. With the second no, Shamir said no to negotiations with the PLO. With the third no, Shamir said no to the establishment of a Palestinian state within the borders of Palestine, which Shamir calls, falsely, the land of Israel. With the fourth no, Shamir said no to a withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. With the fifth no, Shamir said no to the principle of territory for peace.

Behind all these no's, there is a larger no—one to which Shamir and his company of Zionist leaders adhere—that is the no to peace.

Shamir's, and the Zionist leaders', adherence to the slogan of no to peace is actually based on the fact that the Zionist strategy, along with its racial, aggressive, and expansionist nature, believes that peace is a goal that will lead to the collapse of the idol which the Zionist made in the form of a golden calf—a calf complete with a voice, one which is called the Zionist Movement.

Without horns to butt with, the calf will no longer be a calf. They want their Zionist calf to continue its butting—usurpation, ransacking, murder, destruction, aggression, and expansion. So, what remains for all those who dream of a world at peace to say about the position of Shamir and the pillars of his leadership?

Unless Israel abandons its no's, any talk about peace is merely banter and a waste of time. The Zionists will only resort to peace when they understand that their aggressive and expansionist policy will cost them dearly and that their golden calf has become a fire to burn them, an earthquake to make the earth tremble under their feet, and stones of fire for our children to continue to hurl at their heads.

Afghanistan

Government's Statement on Convoy's Protection

LD2010171189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Statement by the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, dated 20 October 1989:

The security services of the Republic of Afghanistan have obtained information that chieftains of the armed extremist groups, namely Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, Sofi Payanda, and several other chieftains in some regions along Kabul-Hayratan highway, have received instructions from the Pakistani military intelligence service. They have been instructed to block the highway in anyway possible. In particular, they are to block the convoy carrying UN assistance goods, the convoy which has recently arrived in Hayratan from Finland, scheduled to leave Hayratan for Kabul.

For this reason, various armed groups attached to the alliance of seven have taken positions along the Kabul-Hayratan highway. Pakistani and Saudi advisers and other foreign elements are supposed to coordinate the activities of these groups and assist them in order to implement the plan devised by Pakistan's military intelligence service.

As the units and subunits of the Armed Forces have defeated the extremists' past efforts to block the Kabul-Hayratan highway and as they did not allow civilians to be deprived of foodstuffs, fuel, and other basic commodities, the Armed Forces will again foil the armed extremists' operations. The Armed Forces, who have already paid for others' crimes against their own people, will use all weapons and equipment at their disposal to inflict crushing blows on the plundering and thieving groups.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is drawing the attention of the United Nations and international society as a whole to these interventionist actions and irresponsible deeds of the military authorities of Pakistan. They not only continue to shamelessly violate the Geneva accords but have undertaken to initiate and coordinate the combat operations against the UN assistance convoys, which are carrying out a completely humanitarian task in the interests of all the needy people in Afghanistan.

It must be pointed out that this is not the first time the extremists, on Islamabad's instruction, are embarking on actions to attack the UN convoy.

These irresponsible deeds on the part of the military administration of Pakistan are clear to all. This administration still shamelessly claims that there are no bases or military training camps for Afghan armed extremists in Pakistani territory and that Pakistani-military personnel and advisers do not take part in the combat operations with the armed Afghan opposition. They still allege that all subversive activities against the Republic of Afghanistan and our country's national sovereignty are initiated elsewhere without the knowledge of the Government of Pakistan.

These shameless lies can no longer deceive others. As the Pakistani prime minister herself said officially many times, she is fully informed of all operations undertaken by her military intelligence service. From such statements we can deduce that the Pakistani prime minister is aware of all subversive operations against Afghanistan and she is in agreement with these (?operations). Therefore, she is aware of the criminal operation being planned against the UN convoy, codenamed "Star-2," by the military intelligence service of Pakistan. Those groups who have received instructions for plundering the UN assistance goods rely, in particular, on the above instructions. Therefore, all responsibility for any consequences of the subversive actions by the armed extremists against the UN convoy will rest on the Pakistani leadership.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has also obtained information that a substantial amount of money, allegedly to secure the livelihood of inhabitants under the control of the respective armed groups, was allocated to Ahmad Shah Mas'ud via UN Afghan assistance.

In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is intending to ask His Excellency Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, to clarify the reasons for this action. The government is intending to ask why UN assistance, meant solely for civilians, has been transferred through those individuals fighting against the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and the UN itself for their evil objectives. [sentence as heard] They threaten and endanger the lives of UN personnel and the convoys carrying UN assistance.

More on Rebel Plans To Stop Convoy

BK2110013489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1913 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 20 (AFP)—Afghan Armed Forces will thwart any attempt by mujahidin rebels to stop a United Nations convoy bringing food supplies to Kabul from Finland via the Soviet Union, Radio Kabul said Friday.

The state-run radio in a broadcast monitored here said the convoy recently reached Afghanistan's northern border town of Herat and will be heading for Kabul along the Salang highway, the main supply line to the Soviet Union.

"The Afghan Armed Forces have received information that rebel commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, Sofi Payanda and others have placed their groups alongside the highway to stop and loot the convoy," the radio said. It said Afghan military forces would "severely punish" the rebels.

The radio also said that Afghan authorities had asked the United Nations and the international community to stop Pakistan, which allegedly planned rebel operations against the convoy, from its activities.

The Salam express, the first train carrying U.N. aid to Afghanistan, left Finland on October 8. Under an accord with the United Nations, Moscow is paying transport costs through its territory.

The railway line ends at Herat, from where the aid is to be transported by road along the Salang highway, which has often been closed by fighting between mujahidin guerrillas and Soviet-backed Kabul government forces.

'Extremists' Launch 6 Missiles on Kabul

LD2110162289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] By firing six missiles at the crowded regions of Kabul city, the Pakistani-backed criminal extremists have again exposed their evil and inhumanity by martyring or injuring a number of our Muslim and religious compatriots today.

The BIA military section noted that as a result of this unforgivable crime by the extremists, which was perpetrated on the basis of the state terrorism plans of Pakistan and the United States, six of our compatriots including women and children were martyred and 14 others injured. Those injured in this mishap were quickly taken to the hospital where they were placed in intensive care. The loss of life as a result of these missiles probably exceeds the above figure.

The BIA military section's report adds that enormous material losses also occurred as a result of this attack by the extremists.

Government Buys U.S. Missiles From Opposition

LD2010223989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] In accordance with Decree No 204, dated 10 October 1987, the State Security Ministry today purchased 50 U.S. Sakr-20 and Sakr-30 surface-to-surface missiles from a commander of the Golbuddin extremist group in the region of Koh-e Safi.

The BIA military section reports that these missiles have been purchased from the opposition in accordance with the decree.

Further on Missile Purchase

LD2210064789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct 21, BAKHTAR—Fifty five of American surface-to-surface rockets of Sacker [as received] 20-30 type were bought on October 19, 1989 by the organs of the Ministry of State Security from one of the commanders of Golbuddin's extremist group in the suburb of Koh-e Safi [placename as received] region, Kabul Province.

According to another report, the personnel of infantry unit of the Ministry of State Security carried out mopping up operation, in Lalandar area Chahar Dehi District, Kabul Province. In this operation, the security forces seized 48 recoilless cannons, 48 mortars 10 ground-to-ground rockets and 6 anti-tank mines. Besides, as a result of severe armed clashes took place between the Golbuddin and his rival extremist groups in Vardak Province, tens of extremists including three-ringleaders of the sides were killed and tens other injured.

In addition, Radio BBC reported that bloody armed clashes are going on between the Golbuddin and Jamiyat-e groups in Qandahar Province. The mediatory mission of Qandahar's 'ulema and local commanders for solving this problem, failed.

Report adds that clashes between Mula Naqib [name as received] group of the Jamiyat band and Sarkateeb Ata Muhammad [name as received] group of Golbuddin band are going on in Qandahar, as a result of large which number of civilians have been killed. Besides, three persons from the mediatory commission composed of local people were also killed in the clash.

Mujahidin Occupy Town in Helmand Province

BK2110072189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have captured the town of (Zila Hazarzukt) in Helmand Province. According to the Afghan interim government's news agency, MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], the town was occupied after 3 days of fierce fighting between the mujahidin and Kabul regime forces.

Mujahidin Attack Bagram; Warplanes Retaliate

BK2110152689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have destroyed 4 warplanes at Bagram Air Base and killed 2 generals and more than 70 soldiers of the Kabul regime.

According to the Afghan interim government's news agency, MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], Kabul regime forces have conducted indiscriminate bombing in retaliation and killed hundreds of local people around Bagram. The agency says 20 persons, including 7 women and 4 children, were killed when two long-range SCUD missiles hit (Ghorband).

India

Daily Publishes Swedish Report on Bofors Payments

BK2110114589 Delhi THE HINDU in English 9 Oct 89 p 1

[Text] English translation of the secret part of the [Swedish National] Audit Bureau's Report:

From the material the National Audit Bureau has studied, the following is evident:

1. In the National Audit Bureau's judgment, these confirm that commission payments to business or accounts in Switzerland were made to those who took care of the Bofors FH-77 deal.

That these payments unquestionably are related to this business is based on A.B. Bofors' written statement to the Swedish National Bank.

1a. All together four payments totalling SEK [Swedish krona] 188,398,806 have been made on 1986-05-06 [year-month-day] to Svenska Incorporated. In immediate connection to this, a reference is made to an agreement between Bofors and Svenska Incorporated. Svenska Incorporated appears to be a Panama-registered corporation with, among others, a bank account in a Swiss bank (Source: JUSTITIA INTERNATIONAL, answer 1986-12-09, to an enquiry from the Swedish National Bank).

The current president of A.B. Bofors, Per Ove Morberg, has in his talks with the Swedish National Bank stated that the principal beneficiary in Svenska Incorporated is "an Indian who has been an agent for Bofors for 10-15 years. Whether there were other partners, Morberg did not know. If the Swedish National Bank requires it, exact particulars about any others cold be produced, according to M." (Minutes from Visit to the National Bank 1986-12-18).

1b. A payment of SEK 11,774,925 was made on 1986-05-22 to Credit Suisse, attn Mr. Bernard Meier, 2 Place Beile-Air, CH 1204 Geneva, Switzerland. Ref: Mont Blanc.

1c. Furthermore, to this added, according to the agreement between A.B. Bofors and Svenska Incorporated "0.96 percent *of the delivery value to the agent at every delivery of Bofors to India.*

This means that for the year 1987 ca [about] 10 million SEK to be paid:
1988 ca 20 million SEK to be paid
1989 ca 20 million SEK to be paid
1990 ca 10 million SEK to be paid

Payments most likely to be made quarterly." (Minutes from Visit to the National bank 1986-12-18).

In 1986-12-22 SEK 2,550,880 was paid (of the same kind as under point 2) and in 1987-02-12 Swiss francs 415,428 (around SEK 1,752,982) was paid to Svenska Incorporated from A.B. Bofors.

2. In the National Audit Bureau's judgment, the commission payments in the circumstances concerning the recipient, mode of payment and other circumstances clearly deviate from existing rules and other foreign payments made by A.B. Bofors in recent years. A.B. Bofors own organisation number was not used.

2a. Three payments have been made to Swiss Bank Corporation, attn Mr. Lafond, 2 Rue de la Confederation, CH-1204, Geneva, Switzerland. Ref: Lotus.
1986-05-22 SEK 8,410,661
1986-07-02 SEK 8,410,661
1986-07-08 SEK 12,615,992. With the following remarks from the Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken: "Attention! The payer's name shall not be stated on the payment, as per telephone conversation."

2b. A payment of SEK 12,615,992 took place on 1986-07-08 to Manufacturers Hannover Trust Company New York, attn Mr. Emil G. Mar 'ii, Geneva branch, 84 Rue du Rhone, GH-1204 Geneva, Switzerland. Ref Tulip. With same bank remarks as under 2a.

Total from 2a-b amounts to SEK 42,053,306.

3. The mass media (Swedish National Radio, EKO-editorial, 1987-04-16) said commission has been paid. According to information, this concerned "three part payments in the middle of November 1986 totalling SEK 29.5 milions and a fourth payment of SEK 2.5 millions carried through in December."

3a. The fourth payment of SEK 2.5 millions was made on 1986-12-22, as described under point 1, to Svenska Incorporated from A.B. Bofors.

3b. The remaining three corresponding [as published] to point 2a, like the one corresponding to the payment mentioned under 2b, according to information from Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken to the Swedish National Bank, have not taken place, but are entries into the correct organisation number of A.B. Bofors of wrong entries mentioned under point 2.

Yet A.B. Bofors has, in its letter to the Indian Ambassador of 1987-04-24 as mentioned above, verified that payments were made during the period mentioned and, furthermore, confirmed that they are related to the FH-77 deal, but concern payments to a Swiss company.

4. The national Audit Bureau has also noticed a major payment that has entered in the books of the Swedish National Bank as commission during the relevant period. The National Audit Bureau has, however, not been able to identify to which deal this belongs. It concerns a payment to a company with an address in Switzerland.

The observations of the National Audit Bureau are, in summary, as follows:
—that there exists an agreement between A.B. Bofors and Svenska Incorporated concerning the settlement of the commission subsequent to the FH-77 deal and

—that considerable amounts have been paid subsequently to, among others, A.B. Bofors previous agent in India.

Note: The National Audit Bureau's Report, dated June 1, 1987, is signed by Mr. Ingemar Mundebo and Mr. Bo Sandberg.

Janata Dal Urges Break in Ties With Sweden

BK2210070889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0657 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 22 (AFP)—India's main opposition party has asked the government to break diplomatic ties with Sweden over its refusal to hand over a confidential file on a controversial gun deal. The Janata Dal (People's Party) said here late Saturday that Stockholm's decision was "an unfriendly and hostile act" and New Delhi must consider "all possible steps, including the snapping of diplomatic relations."

The Swedish Government said Friday it would not submit to India the file on the Bofors Company's 1.3 billion U.S. dollar artillery deal with New Delhi, which has become India's biggest corruption scandal.

India had asked Sweden for the dossier which reportedly showed that the Swedish Company had paid kickbacks to win what was described as the "contract of the century" in 1986 against tough international competition.

Stockholm justified its refusal by saying the documents did not give any precise indication about the identity of the person alleged to have received the money or the object of the payment.

Janata Dal spokesman Jaipal Reddy said if an opposition government came to power in parliamentary elections in India next month, "it would be able to get the identity of the recipients of the kickbacks in one month." He dubbed the Swedish Government's refusal as an "act of deep collusion" with the Indian Government in "shielding the corrupt and concealing the truth."

The centrist Janata Dal is the leading constituent of the National Front, the main opposition alliance determined to end Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's five-year reign in the elections scheduled on November 22, 24 and 26.

According to Sweden's audit court, a Bofors official told the Swedish National Bank in December 1986 that the company had paid, through Swiss banks, the equivalent of 29 million U.S. dollars to an Indian national through a Panamanian company. But Indian media reports said Bofors paid others as well.

New Delhi had told Swedish authorities some two weeks ago that public opinion in India was "agitated" over the issue and that all documents relating to the Bofors deal should be handed over immediately.

President Suspends Session of Parliament

BK2010151889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] The president today prorogued both houses of parliament. The session of the Lok Sabha which began on the 18th of July last [1989] was adjourned sine die last Friday [13 October]. The Rajya Sabha was adjourned sine die on Saturday [14 October].

Further on Gandhi's Call for Early Elections

President's Notice Begins Process

BK2310091589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Filing of nominations for the Lok Sabha polls opened today with the issue of notification by the president urging the voters to choose their representatives in 529 Lok Sabha constituencies. Elections will be held on the 22d, 24th, and the 26th of next month, except in Assam where revision of electoral rolls is yet to be completed. The election process has also started for the five state assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, and Goa with the governors of these states issuing notifications asking the electorates to choose representatives for the assemblies. The entire election process will be completed by the 4th of December.

Nearly 50 crore voters, including over 3.56 crores between the age group of 18 to 21, will cast their votes. Polling will be held in Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh on 2 days, that is the 22d and 24th of next month. It will be a single-day polling in the rest of the country. In Punjab and Sikkim, it will be on the 26th, while in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Bihar, Pondicherry, Maharashtra, Manipur, Gujarat, Karnataka, and the union territory of Dadar and Nagar Haveli, the polling will take place on the 24th. In the rest of the country, it will be held on the 22d. By-elections will also be held to 10 assembly seats in 6 states along with the Lok Sabha polls. These are one each in Haryana, Kerala, Tripura, and Tamil Nadu; two in West Bengal; and four in Meghalaya. [passage omitted]

Gandhi Kin To Run for Janata Dal

BK2110010089 Hong Kong AFP in English 2018 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 20 (AFP)—Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government will face opposition in November general elections from his sister-in-law and cousin, both of whom are running on the Janata Dal (People's Forum) ticket.

Maneka Gandhi, widow of the prime minister's younger brother Sanjay Gandhi, and Arun Nehru, a former minister and Rajiv's cousin, were among the first batch of candidates announced by the opposition Janata Dal here Friday.

Haryana chief minister Devi Lal and Prof. Madhu Dandawate were some of the other prominent Janata Dal leaders figuring on the first list for the polls to be held November 22, 24 and 26.

Maneka, a bitter political opponent of her mother-in-law and former prime minister Indira Gandhi and later of Rajiv, is to stand for the Pillibhit seat in northern Uttar Pradesh, home state of the Gandhis. Uttar Pradesh accounts for 85 seats, the largest of any state, in the 545-member Lok Sabha, or lower house of parliament. It is also the home state of Vishwanat Pratap Singh, India's former defence minister and Janata Dal leader, the shadow prime minister of a combined opposition.

Maneka, whose husband was killed in a plane crash in 1980, emerged as an active opposition politician after she walked out of the Gandhi household following a row with Indira, who was assassinated in 1984.

Arun Nehru, who quit the ruling Congress (I) Party due to differences with his cousin, was named for the Badaun seat in Uttar Pradesh.

Parties 'Racing' To Find Candidates

BK2210045289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0305 GMT 22 Oct 89

[By Marie-France Rouze]

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 22 (AFP)—With just one month to general elections, India's opposition parties are racing to find candidates and platforms for a poll whose outcome is increasingly difficult to predict.

The country had expected to go to the polls in late December. But the embattled government of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, which holds an overwhelming majority in Parliament, took the opposition by surprise, announcing last week that balloting would held November 22, 24 and 26.

The elections will take three days to complete because of India's vast area of some 3.2 million square kilometers (1.3 million square miles). Approximately 500 million people will be eligible to vote for the 545 seats of the Lok Sabha, or lower house of Parliament. Polls will also take place simultaneously in five states to elect members of regional assemblies.

Within hours after the election announcement, opposition leaders as well as officials from the ruling Congress (I) Party were streaming into New Delhi to begin preparations for candidate lists and the campaign.

India's main opposition alliance, the five-party National Front formed last year and seen as the most viable challenge to Mr. Gandhi, cancelled all meetings and demonstrations to prepare its strategy.

On Thursday it hammered out an election manifesto acceptable to all its members and eventual allies, and on Friday presented its strategy, which included "a comprehensive foreign policy" and active steps to improve ties with India's neighbors if elected.

The Janata Dal (People's Forum), the main component of the Front, convened an urgent meeting of its political committee to select candidates and discuss possible alliances with other non-front opposition parties.

On Friday the party announced its list of candidates, which include Maneka Gandhi, the widow of Mr. Gandhi's younger brother Sanjay, and Arun Nehru, a former minister and Mr. Gandhi's cousin. The main possible allies of the front are the rightist Bharatiya Janata (BJP, or Indian People's Party) and the Communist Party. But the communists are strongly opposed to the BJP's pro-Hindu position.

The anti-government daily INDIAN EXPRESS said Thursday Mr. Gandhi's decision to move up general and state assembly polls was "a calculated bid to sow discord between opposition parties and prevent them from reaching an agreement" ahead of the elections.

The Congress Party has ruled India since its independence in 1947 except for a brief period of opposition control from 1977-79. Next month's polls are the first since Mr. Gandhi stormed to Parliament in 1984.

In the last two years, the ruling party has been accused by the opposition of corruption, particularly over alleged kickbacks from a 1.6 billion dollar defense contract with the Swedish firm, Bofors.

Most political analysts say the opposition, though united under the corruption theme, will have difficulty trying to find suitable candidates and a common program. And although the Bofors scandal sent shockwaves through the political establishment, it was greeted with indifference by the majority of India's 850 million people.

During a Wednesday meeting in New Delhi, the BJP came up with a more popular theme, the rise in consumer goods prices which has accelerated over the last few months. A BJP leader, Behari Vajpayee, denounced what he said was the government's inability to stop increases in the price of wheat, lentils, oil and salt.

Opposition Denied Use of Symbols

BK2210085589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] The Election Commission in an interim order has asked the Janata Dal, the antimerger group of the Janata Party led by Mr Indubhai Patel, and the antimerger group of the Lok Dal led by Mr R.N. Koshawa [opposing the Janata Party and the Lok Dal parties merger with the Janata Dal], not to use the Janata Party symbol of chakra [wheel] and haldhar [plowing man] or the Lok Dal symbol of farmer plowing the field for the forthcoming general elections. They have also been asked not to use the name of Janata Party or Lok Dal during the elections.

According to a press note issued by the Election Commission last night, the Janata Dal and the two groups have been recognized as national parties separately. The commission has also asked all the three parties to give three options each with regard to the symbols in order of preference which may be reserved for them on an all-India basis.

The interim order of the chief election commissioner, Mr Peri Sastri, which was concurred also by the two commissioners, Mr Dhanao and Mr Seigell, has asked the groups of Janata Party and Lok Dal led by Mr Patel and Mr Koshawa to indicate the name by which they would prefer to be described. The two groups may adopt such names which may show their linkage with the Janata Party or Lok Dal as the case may be.

In the 11-page interim order, the chief election commissioner said the principles of fair play demand that all parties are placed on a footing of equality; otherwise, it may cause some prejudice to one or the other groups.

The inter-linked case arose out of a split in the Lok Dal and Janata Party with rival factions in each party claiming the symbols. The Janata Dal had also claimed the chakra-haldhar symbol.

Parties Given New Election Symbols

BK2210155089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] The Election Commission today allotted election symbols to the Janata Dal, Janata Party-JP, and the Lok Dal-B, which have been recognized as separate national parties. The Janata Dal has been given the symbol of wheel; the Janata Party-JP symbol is a farmer digging with a [word indistinct] within a wheel; and the Lok Dal-B a bullock cart.

The chief election commissioner, Mr Peri Sastri, allotted the new symbols in consultations with the two election commissioners. The commission had yesterday frozen the erstwhile symbol of the Janata Party, giving its order in the symbol dispute. The symbols were selected by the Janata Dal president, Mr V.P. Singh; Dr Subramaniam Swamy, vice president of the Janata Party-JP, and Mr M.R. Khan, general secretary of Lok Dal-B, for their parties.

With the recognition of these three parties, there are now eight nationally recognized parties. The other parties and their symbols are:
Congress-I [Congress-Indira]—hand;
CPI-M [Communist Party of India, Marxist]—hammer, sickle, and star;
CPI [Communist Party of India]—ears of corn and sickle;
BJP [Bhartiya Janata Party]—lotus; and
Congress-S [Congress-Socialist]—charkha [spinning wheel].

National Front's Election Manifesto

BK2010162789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] The National Front has released its election manifesto for the coming poll. The front comprises five political parties; namely, the Telugu Desam, the Janata Dal, the Dravida Munnetra Kazagham [DMK], the Asom Gana Parishad [AGP], and the Congress-S.

In the manifesto, it promises to introduce comprehensive electoral reforms and revitalize the parliamentary and other constitutional institutions. The manifesto pledges to give people the constitutional right to work and to divert 50 percent of the national resources to the rural sector besides promising to curb corruption.

On Center-state relations, the front says that it is committed to bring about constitutional accountability of the governor and to set up an interstate council. It promises to give constitutional status to the Planning Commission.

The manifesto says that to cleanse public life, the purview of the lokpal and lokayukt [government officials] will be expanded to include the highest political officers. All elected representatives to legislatures and zila parishads [district councils] will be required to declare their assets.

On devolution of powers, it promises what it calls genuine decentralization based on national consensus.

The front pledges to work for communal harmony and national reconciliation through dialogue and discussion and to create a mixed antiriot force to put down communal riots.

On the Ram Janmbhumi-Babri Masjid [Hindu-Muslim disputed shrine] issue, the manifesto maintains that the Babri Masjid should not be demolished while sentiments to have a temple should also be respected. The front wants to give statutory status to the Minority Commission and to implement expeditiously the recommendations of the Mandal Commission.

On the Punjab problem, the National Front says wide-ranging discussions will be held without preconditions with leaders of various sections for a political solution.

On the economic front, the manifesto promises a long-term fiscal policy for both direct and indirect taxation and also long-term licensing policies. It says the public sector shall be freed from what it alleges as excessive bureaucratization, and small scale industries will be promoted. Land reform laws will be given a further thrust and land tribunals will be set up to look into benami [illegal land] transactions.

The manifesto proposes a statutory all-India commission on women and 30 percent reservation in government jobs for them.

For the educated youth, a low-interest loan of 50,000 rupees was promised to facilitate self-employment. It

says special courts will be set up to try cases of atrocities against members of scheduled castes and tribes.

On foreign policy, the front manifesto commits itself to nonalignment, solidarity with developing countries, and anti-apartheid policy and better relations with neighbors.

On the security front, the manifesto says a national security council will be established and an overall security doctrine evolved. The front promises to work for the people's right to information and for creation of an autonomous corporation for the electronic media.

The National Front presidium, which met in New Delhi this morning, unanimously approved the 40-page manifesto. The leaders of the constituent parties and the front's chairman, Mr N.T. Rama Rao; its convener, Mr V.P. Singh; Mr Devi Lal of Janata Dal; Mr Karunanidhi of DMK; Mr P.K. Mohanata of AGP; and Mr Unnikrishnan of Congress-S, briefed newsmen on the manifesto's salient features in New Delhi this afternoon.

110 Political Parties Registered

BK2110150089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] About 110 political parties have so far been registered by the Election Commission to be entitled to certain facilities for the coming elections. There were 59 such parties before applications were called for fresh registration under the amended Representation of People Act. The act requires all political parties to amend (?their) constitution, declaring allegiance to the principles of secularism, democracy, and socialism and protecting unity, integrity, and sovereignty of the nation.

Our correspondent understands that nearly 300 applications have been received by the commission. Of the seven national political parties, five have been registered afresh. These are the Congress-I, the Congress-S, CPI [Communist Party of India], CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], and the Bharatiya Janata Party. The applications of the Lok Dal and the Janata Party could not be disposed of due to the dispute over the merger. The election commission is likely to take a decision on pending applications tomorrow.

Ordinance Issued To 'Delink' Assam From Elections

BK2110091089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] The president has promulgated an ordinance to amend the Representation of People's Act to delink Assam from the parliamentary elections to be held next month. Elections in Assam are not being held because the revised electoral rolls have not been published in the final form. The Election Commission proposes to make a separate recommendation for holding elections for the parliamentary constituencies in the state after electoral rolls are completed.

AIR [All India Radio] correspondent reports that draft rolls have been published in 86 of the 126 assembly constituencies in the state. The commission proposes to give adequate time for the completion of the work to the satisfaction of all. The matter was discussed with the state government, which indicated that some more time is needed for completing the revision of rolls.

3 Killed, 7 Injured in Gujarat; Curfew Imposed

BK2310033089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] In Gujarat, an indefinite curfew has been imposed in the Godhra town of the Panch Mahal District since yesterday evening, following group clashes during a procession. The state home secretary told our Ahmadabad correspondent this morning that the police had to resort to firing to disperse a violent crowd indulging in stone throwing, arson, and looting. Three persons were killed and seven injured in the incident. The situation is now under control.

'Terrorists' Kill 9 in Ferozepore, Amritsar

BK2310074889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists have gunned down nine persons in separate incidents since last night.

According to an official spokesman, terrorists shot dead a farmer, his son, and daughter-in-law in village Kote Sikhan in Ferozepore District early this morning. In Amritsar District, terrorists shot dead a farmer, his two brothers, and his son in village Lidhar in Magitha area and two brothers in village Mohar in Ajnala area last night.

Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle's Test Successful

BK2110161189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] In a major breakthrough in the country's space program, the giant first stage booster motor of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV, was successfully fired today. The ground test was carried out at the Sriharikota range in Andhra Pradesh at 1310. With this, all propulsion modules for the PSLV scheduled for launching in 1990-91 have been tested. The director of the PSLV, Mr G. Madhavan Nair, has said that the test went off smoothly and all objectives were fulfilled. The booster is the biggest ever design and fabricated in the country.

An official press release in New Delhi said that the 20-metre long motor has been developed by India Space Research Organization helped by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Center and other organizations. It has a diameter of 2.8 metres and contains 128 tons of solid propellent.

Our correspondent says that the SLV-3 [Satellite Launch Vehicle-3] and the ASLV [Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle] vehicles used to carry 9 tons of propellent only.

The PSLV's joint motor also has the distinctions of being the third largest solid booster developed anywhere in the world.

Iran

'Arrested U.S. Spies' To Disclose Information

LD2210180789 Tehran IRNA in English 1757 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA—Several arrested U.S. spies in Iran will disclose information on their activities and contacts with Washington, in the course of a news conference here early next month.

In a statement issued today, the Foreign Press Department of the Ministry of Islamic Guidance and Culture, called on all interested foreign journalists and cameramen to refer to Iranian Embassies abroad to arrange for their visit to the Islamic Republic.

The statement said requests should be handed to Iran's Embassy officials or cabled to the Foreign Press Department in Tehran through telex number 21 20 89. It said the conference will be held between Nov. 3 to 5.

Paper Criticizes New FBI Rules on Fugitives

LD2110121689 Tehran IRNA in English 0702 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 21, IRNA—KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL Saturday commented on the new rights given to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) authorising it to kidnap fugitives abroad without the approval of the relevant foreign government.

"In reality, this...is simply to fig leaf for disregarding international laws with respect to the rights of nations and individuals deemed acting contrary to American interests," the English daily said in its editorial. [sentence as received]

Referring to the Chinese belief in equal rights for the nations, the daily said Washington was "in no position" to deny Beijing of the right to march into the American Embassy there to arrest the dissident fugitive Fang Lizhi.

"Given the pressure of his right wing, the sudden crumbling of Mr. Bush's careful relations campaign to appear as a cool crisis manager and the resurfacing of the "wimp" lable, it doesn't require much imagination to foresee this administration embarking on a new phase of foreign policy adventurism," said the daily.

The morning daily predicted that a "new spasm of shopworn Yankee imperialism" would be witnessed in the next few months.

None of America's allies supported the "new and illegal international powers: not even the State Department", said KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL.

It warned that U.S. interests would be in danger if the United States continued its policy which focussed on Central America.

"The kidnapping of a big Medellin honcho might shift the focus of the Colombian bombing campaigns from Bogota to some of the elite watering holes on Capital Hill and in Georgetown. A few more Fawaz Yunis [convicted in United States in March 1989 for 1985 hijack of Jordanian airliner] type escapades will most likely translate into retaliatory measures against human and institutional symbols of American interests abroad," concluded the daily.

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD2010161989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Second sermon delivered by Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, at Tehran University on 20 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted on Koranic recitations]

In my second sermon I would like to deliver a brief speech based on global events and the currents of global arrogance which, 10-11 years ago, are continuously flowing against the course of the revolution, Islam, and Muslims. Today, there are events which serve to remind us of those past events and memories. However, I do not wish to spend time on such details. If, for a brief moment, you glance at the world, you will see the methods of the global arrogance, the policy adopted by the United States against the Muslim nations, specifically in the Middle East, the current events in Lebanon, and the conspiracy which has been hatched against those innocent and Muslim people in that country. You witnessed the Palestinian issue and the treachery a number of Arab leaders and dignatories and those powerful men of the Arab countries committed in collaboration with some of the appointed leaders to Palestine within the occupied territories. These innocent Muslim Palestinians, these young people, these men and women are struggling with all their might, while the powerful harbor no humanitarian feelings toward the innocent Palestinian community.

You are witnesses to the world situation insofar as it concerns us Muslims. You listen to the news. You can see the pressure inflicted on the Muslim factions in the world. You can see the collaboration among the reactionary and mercenary governments who work contrary to the interests of their countries. You can see the way public opinion has remained apathetic in the face of such conspicuous tyrannies. This is something which is impossible to bear. For instance, when the United States announces that it has the prerogative to prosecute those criminals who have been sentenced in U.S. courts, wherever they may be in the world, or in other words, a universal capitulation for all countries in the world, then the world's general opinions fail to attain the necessary

progression. [sentence as heard] Instead, in the wake of such an announcement, European, Asian, and African countries and all nations should have adopted positions in the face of such an intimidating resolve; but they do not. They did not.

You can see how the world does not respond to the remarks made by the head of the country who describes any support for the innocent people of South Africa as an irresponsible action, how it has failed to respond to such an inhumane and wrong remark. This indicates that those who are powerful and arrogant have created a world which is tainted with tyrrany and malevolence. Of course, there is no doubt that nations are despondent. Nations are also prepared to rise up against such bullying, but they need hope, leadership, and guidance. Nations need a role model in order to see that it is possible to stand firm against the global arrogance. This role model today is Islamic Iran. [crowd chants support]

Wherever you look in the world there is no other government to be seen other than that of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has stood firmly and decisively against the bullying and intimidations which have been manifested by the powerful. Of course, this is thanks to the blessing of Islam, the pure Islam which our people have felt with all their being and believed in, and, thanks be to God, have practised to a great extent. Islam has rendered such strength and courage to you people, and to your officials, so that they may stand firm in the face of such bullying. Today, when an incident occurs in the world, such as the incidents which have occured in this Middle East region—Lebanon, Palestine—where a nation or an individual is intimidated, a tyranny is committed somewhere or a wrong or bullying word is spoken by someone—in protest, adopting a position, or considering the implementation of task or obligation—we do not take notice of any political issue, nor do we fear any power. [crowd chants in support]

We will not consider it. Some other countries are amazed that a government, a country, has no fear of the world domineering powers. Yet, that country does exist, thank God. We are an example to the world today. Even when the East and West joined hands against us, during the war and prior to it, and when almost the whole world's military was arrayed against us, we proved to the world that we were not afraid of anybody and that we were strong. That is peculiar to the Islamic Republic. [passage omitted]

That is the prime reason why you see that global arrogance either tries to defeat the Iranian nation in some way—in order to show other nations that even the resisting Iranian nation can be defeated—or to force the Iranian nation to a compromise. Then again they can tell the world nations that a resisting and heroic nation like Iran will have to eventually come to terms with them.

That is their objective, but, thank God, so far such a thing has not happened and will not happen in future. So long as we are around, so long as this nation exists, so long as the warm breath and spirit of our dear late imam remains in our memories and in our revolutionary air, then such a thing is not likely to happen.

Well, that was the preamble to my remarks. [passage omitted] What I intend to say concerns the fact that you and I, the Iranian nation, today shoulder a divine commitment; that is, to inspire hope in the people of the world. [passage omitted: Koranic verse] You are outstanding models for other nations to observe. This is a great commitment which is incumbent on us, and we must know it well. This is our main task: to maintain that point of hope in the hearts of Muslim nations.

In the same way as the Iranian nation, during the past 10 to 11 years, has been in a position of inspiring hope in the hearts of other nations, from now on our words and deeds must also be such that the same hope may remain the hearts of the oppressed. Indeed, fear must also remain in the hearts of the enemies. This is my point.

I intend to say that the enemies of the Iranian nation tried to drive the nation to pessimism and hopelessness in the future. As you have heard, during all these years, whenever an event took place, the foreign broadcasting stations began to make remarks. Some of them said that Iran was finished now. Others said that 3 to 6 months hence there would be no trace of the Islamic Republic. Others said that the revolution was defeated.

On every occasion the foreign broadcasting stations tried to show that the Iranian nation had lost hope in its future and that it is pessimistic. They tried to show how the officials of the Islamic Republic have failed to manage the affairs and build the country. For many years that kind of propaganda has existed. What is that kind of propaganda for?

Every individual member of the society, especially those among the elite whose words and deeds influence others, must act contrary to what the enemy wants. The enemy wants to discourage the people and dishearten them over their future. The enemy wants to say that the officials of the Islamic Republic and the managers of the country are incapable of building and reconstructing the country through their own will and management. The enemy wants to say that the Islamic regime is incapable of meeting the needs of the people. The enemy wants to say that the people of Iran have no trust in their officials and are not optimistic about them. The enemy wants to say that a gulf has been created between the people and the officials which is widening daily. This is what the enemy is talking about.

The enemy is creating tension; he intends to sow seeds of doubt, mistrust, and pessimism in the society. Until yesterday it did so through propaganda, broadcasts, articles, and magazines, through statements by ignorant people who are influenced by the propaganda of the world arrogance. These are the enemy's intentions.

Our nation is feeling the reality; they see that the reality is precisely the opposite of what the enemy intends to make them believe. The people know that the officials love them.

During the time his eminence the imam was alive, all propaganda concentrated on the idea that the people were separated from the imam; they emphasized this. Of course, our people in their own hearts could see they were filled with affection for the imam. The people's confidence in the officials is a very valuable asset. The enemy's propaganda tries to take away this confidence. This confidence resolved our problems during the period after the revolution and even before the victory of the revolution. It was with this spirit of confidence that our people moved, rejected the enemy's aggression, and saved the country. When people were told that the enemy intended to destroy the Islamic system, resorting to military aggression, they accepted this. They went to the scenes of the war and defended the Islamic Republic and the sovereignty of the country.

As time went on, it became clear what was going on. All realized that the enemy intended to destroy the Islamic Republic system, organizing the attack and the military aggression. The problem was not a border conflict. The problem was not differences between two neighbors. This confidence saved the country and gave the officials bravery and courage to work during the blessed time of our dear imam.

You saw during the time of the dear imam, how he placed emphasis on the support of the people for the officials. It was not that the imam was not aware of the weaknesses in the system and could not see them. Yes, he observed the weaknesses, perhaps better than others. The weaknesses in the government structure, weaknesses in judicial power, weaknesses in various sections of the extensive system of the country's management, were not hidden from the imam. However, despite these, the imam insisted that the people should cooperate with the officials and stand behind the managers of the country until they can rectify the weaknesses. [crowd chants: "Khamene'i, you are the leader, you follow the imam"]

It is the same today. Today also there are three things I recommend to you, brothers and sisters, and to the entire Iranian nation. First, do not lose your spirit of optimism and hopes for the future. Realize that that optimism and hope is well placed. [passage omitted: Koranic verse] Why should you not be optimistic about the future? A brave, courageous, and strong nation, united, hard-working, intelligent, and talented, in a land brimming with divine blessings. Why should you not be optimistic and hopeful about the future when you have put difficult days behind you? If anyone should have been pessimistic or without hope, you should have been pessimistic and without hope in those days.

With the blessing of the guidance of the imam and our eminent leader, we have come through very dangerous passes. We will continue the path with strength; we will build the country. We will increase our strength—economic, military, political; in the society's great cultural strength, we will make progress every day. We are Muslims; we have the Koran in our hand. Our hearts belong to Islam and the Koran. [passage omitted: Koranic verse] We must be the best. We must progress, and we will. We have put dark and gloomy nights behind us. We will again put behind us the dark clouds of sedition at any time with reliance on God and the Koran. Why should we not be hopeful?

Every single person must maintain hope in their hearts for the future and optimism about the future despite the enemy, because the enemy wants to kill hope in hearts. It knows that its greatest enemy is your hopefulness. If you become without hope, the enemy will breathe easily. Its task will be made easy. It therefore wants to impose hopelessness on people. That is one point.

The second thing which I recommend to every single person is maintenance of confidence in the country's officials; we see the best in charge of affairs today. They are the best. Let no one think, if there were others instead of those people, such or such a thing would happen; that is not the case at all. All social groups and types have been tested during the past 11 years. Today, the people who bear the responsibilities—and the responsibilities are very heavy indeed—are worthy and faithful people in which one can have confidence. [crowd chants support]

It is everyone's duty to maintain that spirit of confidence in their hearts. No one has the right to take that spirit of confidence away from the people and to disturb people's hearts. That some people should go here and there irresponsibly, and without any sense of responsibility disturb people's confidence in officials is an unrevolutionary and un-Islamic action. That is wrong. The people must be certain of the driver, who is driving this train, this bus, and taking it forward, so that they may give him the opportunity and the assistance to take this convoy home. If a lack of confidence exists, he will not be able to work and they will not be able to assist: mutual confidence is needed. [passage omitted]

What I am saying holds especially true about people who appear on various tribunes and who speak and write. They must try even more than others to strengthen that confidence in people's hearts. Let them never in any way disturb or weaken that spirit. That is the second point.

The third thing I recommend to every person is this: Do not let the spirit of revolutionary zeal and responsibility before the revolution die in their hearts and in your hearts, the people. Zeal! Like someone who is defending his own family, his own territory! Like someone who defends his honor! Defend your revolution in just that way. Defend the values of the revolution in just that way. Defend the achievements of the revolution in just that way; woman or man, old or young, whatever your situation, in whichever corner of this country you are. It makes no difference.

This revolution was not won easily. There was much suffering, blood was shed, and great divine blessings and assistance were bestowed on the people so that this great achievement was attained. It is not as if the people can sit around, that we can sit around and watch while some people plunder the values of the revolution, insult those values, take them lightly. No! The revolutionary values, the achievements of the revolution and the Islamic atmosphere of the society are the honor of every single one of our people; you defend them and you must do so, with zeal, with full strength!

The enemy must not be able—through propagating the culture of corruption—to propogate any kind of corruption, whether it be related to physical desire, or financial corruption, or the various other ethical and practical forms of corruption—it must not be able to make the revolution rot from the inside. Like a brave and zealous youth who defends his home, his territory, his family, his existence, every single one of you, man or woman, defend your revolution, your Islam, your officials, your achievements, your Islamic faith in the face of those who attack them! [crowd chants support] Undoubtedly, divine [word indistinct] and divine wisdom will also be with us and the blessed spirit of our dear imam and the holy spirits of the imam's and the holy prophet of Islam and the holy existence of the hidden imam, the lord of the age, may God hasten his noble adjvent, will assist our nation in this path. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted: Koranic verse]

Velayati Comments on 'Stalemate' in Peace Talks

LD2210120689 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati blamed Iraq for the stalemate in the Iran-Iraq peace talks adding that no significant progress has been made in implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 since the last round of peace talks.

In an interview with the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI printed on Sunday Velayati said "if the current trend continues, it is not clear whether we will make a tangible progress in the future."

More on Iraqi hindering moves, he said "Iraqis have in practice shown their disrespect for the resolution and proved they are not after implementing it, otherwise they would have acted differently."

Velayati was referring to the U.N. Security Council formulated Resolution 598 which Iran accepted in July 1988 and was followed by declaration of cease-fire a month later.

He told the paper "it is likely that Iraq was using the state of 'no war, no peace' to stabilize itself in the country and at the meantime is using it as a lever to get concessions from other Arab countries. Their (Iraqis) interest may call for keeping the region in the state of semi-tension for political and economic misuse."

Special envoy of the U.N. secretary general Jan Eliasson is to arrive in the region next week to follow up efforts on the resumption of peace talks.

On the role of international bodies in implementation of the resolution, he said that some countries which influence decisions of the international bodies benefit from the stalemate in peace talks. These influential countries intend to misuse the resolution as a lever for their own political interests vis-a-vis their relations with the regional countries and those involved in the peace talks.

As for the moves that Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar can make to accelerate the peace talks he said, "the secretary general is interested in progress on the implementation of the resolution, but he is unable to handle the task alone—he needs effective and serious support of the Security Council."

On the lack of seriousness of international bodies towards the issue, the Non-Aligned Movement in particular, Iran's foreign minister said, "certain non-aligned countries have shown interest to play a part and help progress of the resolution. We have welcomed their efforts provided these moves do not overshadow the secretary general's efforts to implement the resolution, i.e., they should neither be against the spirit of the resolution nor even in parallel with it."

More on Iraq's hindering the implementation of the resolution, he noted that the Iraqi regime is repeating the same mistake in the course of the peace talks. "Iraqis try to attain at negotiation table what they could not achieve in the battlefields," said Velayati. He said this is the reason for indecision of the Iraqis at the peace talks, a factor which has pushed the talks to a stalemate.

"The Iraqis have no courage to clarify their real intentions behind the policy and, therefore, they make contradictory statements when they want to justify their assertions," he told the paper. [Words indistinct] the past 14 months since the start of the talks, Iraq has raised different issues in each round of negotiation such as the withdrawal of forces, dredging of Arvand River, free navigation in the Persian Gulf and Hormuz Strait, and the POWs.

Velayati said that all these moves aimed at impeding the enforcement of the ceasefire.

The foreign minister further asserted that Baghdad was not willing to accept the U.N. chief's plan to speed up the resolution's execution. "This is a further proof that they are not in favor of progress in the negotiations and instead follow certain aims."

The U.N. secretary general proposed recently, as part of his plan that the two countries withdraw forces to the internationally recognized borders within 15 days and the POWs be exchanged within 90 days, which has been fully accepted by Iran but rejected by Iraq.

He reiterated the Islamic Republic's readiness to exchange the POWs and implement other points of the plan immediately after Iraq accepted the 4-point plan.

He noted that as a sign of goodwill Iran has on several occasions unilaterally released groups of Iraqi POWs but that the move had not been reciprocated by Iraq.

Velayati recalled a recent statement by Tariq 'Aziz in Geneva that he had a list of 25,000 Iranian POWs and that he was ready to deliver it to the Red Cross "under certain conditions."

"The figure added up with the 19,000 Iranian POWs already registered, brings the total number of Iranian POWs held by Iraq to 44,000," he said.

On the exchange of wounded POWs, the minister noted that both Iran and Iraq had signed a note of understanding with the International Committee of the Red Cross last year according to which they had agreed to free all the wounded and disabled POWs. But, Velayati regretted that Iraq did not abide by the agreement.

Commenting on the nature of the forthcoming trip to the region by the U.N. chief's special envoy Jan Eliasson, Velayati said "Iran has no information on details of his assignment which is aimed to move forward the implementation of the resolution."

More on Iran's determination to achieve its legitimate rights, the minister reiterated "we will not surrender even one inch of our territory." He said the Islamic Republic's patience was limited, adding "we have proved in the past that we will, in no way, retreat or make any reconciliation."

"On the basis of the Resolution 598, Iraq is obliged to pull out its forces from Iranian territory," Velayati said and warned "if international forums, the United Nations in particular, are not able to compel Iraq to do so, we will not hesitate to restore our legitimate rights ourselves."

Mohtashemi Reportedly Visits Eastern Lebanon

NC2210182689 Paris AFP in English 1754 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, Oct 22 (AFP)—Iran's former Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi is currently visiting Lebanon, the pro-Iranian Lebanese Hizballah group said Sunday but declined to give any further details.

The AL-DIYAR daily, closely linked with the Christian military forces of Lebanese Christian leader Michel 'Awn, meanwhile reported that Mr. Mohtashemi had attended a rally Saturday celebrating the birth of the Prophet Muhammad in the Syrian-controlled al-Biqa' valley of eastern Lebanon.

The newspaper quoted him as saying: "The Iranian brothers will persevere in the path forged by the Ayatollah Khomeyni and in their support to the Hizballah in Lebanon."

AL-DIYAR also reported a statement by a Hizballah leader, Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik, denying that Mr. Mohtashemi was under house arrest in Iran.

The former minister was with the Islamic fighters in southern Lebanon, where the Hizballah's Islamic resistance paramilitary forces maintain positions facing the Israeli-occupied territory. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Continues Tour in Northwest

Discusses Plan To Combat Inflation

NC2010133389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Our country's president, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, spoke to a Central News Unit correspondent after his arrival in Orumiyeh yesterday. Praising the resistance and steadfastness of the people of West Azarbayjan Province during the imposed war, he said: I am pleased to be visiting this area to learn about its problems and difficulties and to thank the people here.

In his interview with our correspondent, our country's president spoke about the second phase of the government's plan to fight high prices and inflation, saying: This plan is ready and will be announced soon. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: When we began our activities, we realized we had to start at the beginning. This is why we decided to reintroduce a logical foreign exchange rate, and thus activate production centers and increase production.

Our country's president, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, also stated: The second phase of this plan will be more extensive. During this phase, the government will extend foreign exchange support to production units.

Addresses Armed Forces in Orumiyeh

LD2010124889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Today the president placed emphasis on the readiness and preparedness of the Armed Forces in order to be able to confront any kind of enemy plots. He made his remarks at the morning ceremonies of the joint Armed Forces stationed in West Azarbayjan. The correspondent of the Central News Unit reports about this:

[Correspondent] Mr 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is visiting West Azarbayjan, took part today in the morning ceremonies of the joint Armed Forces of the region at the garrison of the 64th Division in Orumiyeh. He spoke about the need to strengthen the bases of unity among all strata of people and in particular among the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran at a time of "No war, no peace."

At the beginning of his speech, the president of our country congratulated the Muslim people of the region and the Armed Forces stationed at the 64th Division of the Armed Forces on Unity Week and explained the

sensitive geographic and political situation of West Azarbayjan. He addressed the participants and said: With regard to your mission and the territorial boundaries of your responsibility, during the present conditions, when the situation is quiet between war and peace, the main responsibility of the Armed Forces is to maintain their preparedness to confront any kind of conspiracy.

As we learn from Islamic texts and knowledge, the first principle in defense issues is preparedness of the forces. This preparedness and their presence among the people will strengthen our morale and will weaken the enemy's.

In another part of his remarks, the president of our country stressed that Islam does not believe in forcing ideas and ways of thinking, but believes in raising human values. He then addressed the Armed Forces stationed in the region, and said: When there are people who want to stop the movement of right for their own interests, the orders for using force will be issued.

At the end of his remarks, the president expressed the hope that the Islamic nation of Iran will witness even more unity among the Armed Forces under the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, who wisely holds the leadership of the forces, the forces who protect this land and territory.

Arrives in Sanandaj 20 Oct

LD2010184589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani ended his visit to West Azarbayjan and arrived in Sanandaj this evening to meet and confer with the people and the officials of Kordestan Province. Our correspondent reports from the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Sanandaj Center:

[Correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived in Sanandaj to meet with the people and the officials of Kordestan Province at around (?1900). He was welcomed by Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Musa Musavi, the representative of the supreme jurisconsult in Kordestan region, [words indistinct] of the Kordestan governor general's office, Majlis deputies from Kordestan, Sanandaj Friday imam, prayer imams of the province, local officials, the archbishop of Sanandaj, and the clergies of the region.

In a brief airport interview with the Central News Unit correspondent in Kordestan, our country's president said his intention in visiting Sanandaj is to meet and talk with the citizens, officials, clergy, and the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces in the region. He said the visit was to take place before now but was postponed due to the demise of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified, and because of the presidential elections.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the people of Kordestan have suffered many hardships over the past 10 years and expressed hope that underdevelopment will be compensated with the cooperation of the people.

In a car belonging to the Sanandaj airport, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his companions then went to the (?governor general's office in Sanandaj) and were warmly and emotionally welcomed by the people. The people of Sanandaj who had gathered in the streets welcomed Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Kordestan [words indistinct] region by waving their hands and slaughtering cows and sheep.

It is worth mentioning that Messrs Razavi, vice president and secretary general of the organization in charge of the employment affairs of the country; Mirzadeh, vice president of executive affairs; (?Eshaq Madani, vice president of the pilgrimage and hajj); Brigadier General Shahbazi, the head of [words indistinct] Armed Forces; Rahim Safavi, deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps; and a number of the officials from the (?Presidential Office) are accompanying the president.

[Signed] Central News Unit, Sanandaj

Further on Arrival in Sanandaj

LD2110122389 Tehran IRNA in English 0738 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., Oct. 21, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived here Friday afternoon on the third leg of his tour of the country's northwestern provinces.

Upon arrival at the airport, the president told reporters that he was in Kordestan to meet with local people, as well as religious and administrative authorities, and to investigate their problems.

"The people of Kordestan have endured a lot of hardships during the past ten years. I hope to be able to redress the backwardness of this oppressed region incurred before and after the Islamic revolution due to the past mischiefs and the Iraqi imposed war," said the president.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani toured the two northwestern provinces of Azarbayjan-e Khavari and Azarabayjan-e Bakhtari over the past three days during which he held talks with local authorities and inspected development projects underway.

He inspected the ongoing project of Shahid Kalantari highway over the Orumiyeh Lake. With completion of the project, originally started in 1980, the distance between the two capitals of Azarbayjan-e Khavari and Azarbayjan-e Bakhtari will be cut by 140 kms. The highway is temporarily used through a suspension bridge.

Meanwhile, the president's advisor in executive affairs announced Friday that one billion rials (official rate: one U.S. dollar equals approx. 73.5 rials) will be allocated to post-war reconstruction projects in Azarbayjan-e Bakhtari Province bringing the total allocation to the region to seven billion rials.

Speaks on Kurds, Plots, Resources

LD2110135889 Tehran IRNA in English 1242 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., Oct. 21, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Saturday stressed that enemy plots and mischiefs had so far failed in Kordestan region.

Speaking to a large gathering of people here, he noted that contrary to the malicious propaganda of imperialist mass media, the noble Kurdish people had remained committed to Islam and their homeland.

He regretted that despite the rich potentials of the province and its hard working people, the area was still suffering from deprivations. He said the existing gaps should be filled through cooperation of regional people with the officials.

On the objective of enemy mischiefs, the president said such conspiracies aimed at damaging people's trust in the officials.

He stressed that the real patron of the Kurdish people was the Islamic Republic, adding that sheltering Iraqi refugee Kurds was a good proof in this connection.

Earlier the same day, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani lauded the key role the Armed Forces played in this region and said they had captured the hearts of Kurdish people.

Speaking at a joint flag-hoisting ceremony here, the president stressed that Kurdestan has always been a target for plots of the East and West, adding that all such plots had been defused by the bravery and devotion of the armed forces.

He urged the Armed Forces to strongly safeguard the borders and maintain regional security to make reconstruction of the area possible.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived here Friday at the end of an inspection tour to East and West Azarbayjan Provinces.

He also attended a meeting of the Administrative Council of the province where he called for the people's all-out participation in using the province's resources and potentials.

He stressed that the people of Kordestan had proved to be trustworthy and, therefore, they should actively participate in the reconstruction of the area.

During the eight-year old Iraqi imposed war, a total of 22,000 residential, commercial and educational units were damaged, 8,000 of which have been reconstructed.

Returns to Tehran 21 Oct

LD2110175589 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 21, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani returned to the capital today afternoon after an inspection tour of the northwestern areas which took him across Kordestan and East and West Azarbayjan Provinces.

During his 4-day visit, the president talked with local people from all walks of life, and outlined his government's special plans to develop the region, especially Kordestan.

He also participated in ceremonies held jointly by local Shiites and Sunni Muslims marking Unity Week, and looked into regional issues during meetings with Friday prayers leaders, 'ulema and officials.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his first visit to the region since becoming the president of the Islamic Republic, was accompanied by the ministers of agriculture and heavy industries, and two of his deputies for executive and administrative and employment affairs.

Briefs Cabinet on Tour of Provinces

LD2210225189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Excerpts] In Sunday's cabinet meeting chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the latter briefed members of the cabinet about certain points related to his recent trip to the provinces of Kordestan, West and East Azarbayjan, and his meetings with the inhabitants and officials of these three provinces.

The president said that he learned about the many resources of these three provinces from an economic and work force point of view, and that these resources must be better utilized and distributed with the serious cooperation of national and local officials. Hashemi-Rafsanjani remarked: We can resolve many of the problems immediately, and ministries should implement the measures necessary. National officials, in particular, should delegate responsibility to solve a substantial part of the problems of the three provinces to officials of the local government departments. In addition, local officials should coordinate with national officials and also with governors. We also, after making our calculations and assessments, will turn over certain tasks to the relevant ministries. The president added: The state of the customs is not good in Azarbayjan and problems connected with this issue should be corrected as quickly as possible. Of course, several organizations and ministries must collaborate and improve this matter. [passage omitted]

In this session, at the proposal of the Ministry of Roads and Transport and with the endorsement of the cabinet, 'Ali Mohammad Nuriyan was appointed head of the State Airlines Organization [Sazman-e Havapeyma'i-ye

Keshvari] and Hasan Shafti the managing director of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Airlines Corporation [Sherkat-e Havapeyma'i-ye Jomhuri-ye Islami-ye Iran], respectively, and the former officials of these bodies were praised for their services.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Israel on Mosque Issue

LD2110165189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Following the activities of the Zionist regime inside al-Aqsa' Mosque and that regime's vile conspiracy to destroy Islamic holy sites and buildings, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of our country issued a statement. In this statement all the Muslims of the world have been asked to show a strong reaction and to express their profound anger and condemnation and to foil the new conspiracy of the Zionists.

Majlis Speaker Condemns Plan

LD2210112889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] During today's open session of the Majlis, Mr Karrubi, the Majlis speaker, warned the regime occupying Jerusalem against demolishing al-Aqsa' Mosque and asked the world Muslims and believers to confront this action. According to the Central News Unit, Mr Karrubi described the action of the Zionists, who intend to demolish the first qiblah [direction toward which Muslims face while performing their daily prayer rituals] of the Muslims, as a sign of the grudge they hold against the beliefs and sacred centers of the Muslims. He added: The world's Muslims should use propaganda methods as far as possible to express their hatred in the face of this conspiracy.

Referring to the claim that in order to confront the Zionists, to oppose them, demonstrating and chanting slogans against them will not be sufficient, the Majlis speaker stated: What punishes the Zionists is struggle and support for the selfless nation of Palestine and the Islamic movements in the Islamic countries. He continued: The action of the Zionists, which offend Muslims and insult their most sacred centers, stems from the secret links between some heads of Islamic states, the Zionists, and the arch Satan. He said: Apart from the Muslims, other believers, who have religious centers all over the world, should protest against this conspiracy because the continuation of such actions will also create difficulties for them.

In conclusion, Mr Karrubi noted the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Haj Seyyed Mostafa Khomeyni, and offered condolences to the leader of the Islamic revolution and to the honorable family of Imam Khomeyni, may Almighty God be satisfied with his deeds.

Also during the session, a letter was read out on behalf of the religious minorities, the Armenians in the northern and southern regions of the country, the Assyrians, Zoroastrians, and Iranian Jews, condemning the conspiracy of the Zionist regime intending to raze al-Aqsa' Mosque to the ground.

Majlis Committee Condemns Plans

LD2210164789 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA—The Majlis Foreign Relations Committee on Sunday lashed out at the Zionist regime for its recent destructive operations at the al-Aqsa' Mosque.

In a statement, the committee requested all Muslim people and statesmen and those claiming to protect the cultural human heritage not to remain silent vis-a-vis such a "big crime."

It described as "a big crime against the sanctities of Islam and human culture" recent operations carried out by the Zionist regime at al-Aqsa' Mosque with a goal of destroying Muslims' first Qiblah (a place towards which Muslims say their daily prayers).

The committee pittied [as received] that "if Muslim governments had felt duty bound to defend Islam and Islamic sanctities through their unity, the usurpers of al-Quds [Jerusalem] would have never dared to launch such an aggression."

It said the timing of these operations (at Al-Aqsa' Mosque) with compromising moves underway at al-Ta'if near Muslims' holiest sanctuaries has served to encourage the Zionist regime.

The regime occupying Palestine has recently decided to build a synagogue inside al-Aqsa' Mosque and destroy all its Islamic relics. The act has prompted protests by Islamic communities.

In related news, representatives of religious minorities in the Majlis issued a statement Sunday strongly condemning "this new plot of the Zionists."

Mahdavi-Kani Named Supervisor of Tehran Mosques

LD2210125489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the supreme jurisconsult and leader of the Islamic revolution, has issued an edict appointing Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani as supervisor of the center for dealing with the affairs of Tehran's mosque to safeguard the sanctity of the mosques—the most fundamental pillars of religion, spiritualism, and morality—as well as to bolster their spiritual and revolutionary role and tuition and propogation in the mosques. The text of the edict by the leader of the Islamic revolution is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To His Excellency Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, may your shadow continue. The numerous appeals from officials of Tehran's mosques, such as the Friday imams, the

mobilization groups, the Guardians, the supervisor, and similar groups, indicate the lack of a recognized, informed, and influential center for the affairs of mosques, which are the principle base of religion, spiritualism, and morality. There is no doubt that safeguarding the sanctity of the mosques and bolstering their spiritual and revolutionary roles, as well as their functions of tuition and propogation, require the security and safety of their environment and the need to avoid internal quarrels and disputes. It would be appropriate, therefore, if Your Excellency who, thanks be to God, is highly respected and revered by their excellencies the Friday imams of Tehran's mosques, would select a center and representatives to deal with the important affairs of the mosques and, when necessary, to assist and support Islamic projects in the mosques, or if need be, by appointing a Friday imam and other officials affiliated with the mosques, to improve the effectiveness and growth of these bases of the revolution and of Islam. I beseech the God Almighty to grant Your Excellency much success. May God's blessing be upon you.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

Pakistan

Bhutto Sends Messages to Indian Leaders, Others

BK2310112989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to establish cordial and harmonious relations with India based on good-neighborliness and mutual benefit. She stated this in a message of goodwill to the Indian president, Mr R. Venkataraman, while overflying India on her way back home from Malaysia yesterday.

In a message to the Indian prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto recalled her constructive discussions with him for accelerating the process of normalization of relations between the two countries for peace and cooperation in the region. She also sent similar messages of goodwill to the leaders of Thailand and Burma, now Myanmar.

In a farewell message to the Malaysian prime minister, Datuk Sri Mahathir bin Mohamed, on her departure from Kuala Lumpur yesterday, the prime minister expressed the confidence that cooperation between their two countries would grow stronger in the years to come to their mutual benefit. She praised the Malaysian Government for making meticulous arrangements for holding the Commonwealth summit.

Briefs Press on Malaysia Meeting

BK2310024289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that Pakistan's reentry into the Commonwealth has produced significant effects at the international level. She was addressing a news conference last night after returning to Islamabad from Kuala Lumpur, where she participated in the Commonwealth summit.

The prime minister said everyone welcomed Pakistan's readmission beyond her greatest expectations. Ms Benazir Bhutto clarified Pakistan's policy with regard to its geographic and strategic importance. She said she made special mention of the Afghanistan, Palestine, Lebanon, and the Gulf issues and explained Pakistan's viewpoint on Cyprus, South Africa, and other political and economic problems. She said she clarified Pakistan's policy on the political front, especially that which concerns our region. Pakistan has also made its position clear on the issues concerning its friends like the PRC and Turkey. Pakistan played a vital role in the discussions on economic and other issues of regional and global interest.

The prime minister described as incorrect the notion that the Commonwealth is a symbol of slavery and the former British empire. To have such thinking is tantamount to disrespect to the Asian and African countries, who won independence after making great sacrifices and are in the Commonwealth with the status of independent and sovereign nations. Ms Benazir Bhutto said the benefits available from the Commonwealth now were not guaranteed earlier.

In his speech at the summit, the Malaysian prime minister said he was once against this organization but now he supports it because the current era is an era of interdependence of nations.

On Afghanistan, the prime minister said some political solution should be found to this issue to end fighting there. She said Najibullah will have to relinquish his power. Pakistan will continue its efforts for a political solution to this issue. She expressed the hope that the Soviet Union will take steps in favor of peace in Afghanistan in particular and in the entire world at large.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said the Philippines president, Mrs Aquino, has asked Pakistan to host the forthcoming session of the organization of new democracies, which enjoys the patronage of the Philippines. Pakistan will sympathetically consider this proposal.

The prime minister also referred to her exchange of views on bilateral issues with several heads of state and government of the Commonwealth member countries in Kuala Lumpur.

On the opposition charge on the Wular barrage issue, the prime minister said the Pakistan People's Party government has stopped the construction work of this barrage by India, which was in progress during the regime of those people who are leveling these baseless allegations against the current government. In fact, those who are criticizing the People's Party are themselves responsible for the Wular Barrage and Siachen issues.

Ms Benazir Bhutto rejected the idea of calling a round-table conference on the issue of provincial autonomy and the situation in Sind and said the government does not consider it necessary at this stage. This issue, however, can be considered when the opposition leaders are ready to cooperate in the restoration of the 1973 constitution.

On the law and order situation in Sind she said it is somewhat better now than last year and is constantly improving.

In reply to a question, the prime minister welcomed the return of Ghulam Mustafa Khar [leader of National People's Party] to the Pakistan People's Party.

Party Convention Endorses Merger With PPP

BK2110160089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] The National People's Party-Khar Group [NPP] at its all-Pakistan convention in Lahore this evening endorsed party chairman Malik Ghula Mustafa Khar's decision to merge NPP with the Pakistan People's Party [PPP]. The convention unanimously adopted a resolution in this connection.

Addressing the convention, Malik Ghulam Mustafa Khar said that some elements want to hurt the process of democracy in the country. He said he would not allow any conspiracy against the PPP government. T he NPP chairman said that Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto is the symbol of unity of four provinces and the torch of democracy in the country. He added that the country is passing through an extremely crucial phase and that it is the duty of all patriotic citizens to cooperate with the elected government of the PPP. He said he has decided to join the PPP in the larger national interest to fulfill the mission of martyr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

Many speakers addressing the convention said that the decision [to merge with PPP] is very timely and will have far-reaching impact on national politics.

Fire Guts Tankers at Karachi Oil Terminal

BK2210075089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0738 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Karachi, Oct 22 (AFP)—Several oil tankers have been gutted in a huge fire Sunday at an oil terminal in Karachi port, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) reported.

A large area of the Keamari terminal was engulfed in smoke, the agency said, adding that over two dozen fire engines had been deployed to fight the blaze some two hours after it broke out at about 10 a.m. local time (0500 GMT.) Smoke from the burning tankers could be seen several kilometres (miles) away, APP said.

Karachi Port Trust sources said three tankers had mysteriously caught fire, but that the "cause of the fire was not immediately known."

Last month authorities in Rawalpindi near the capital Islamabad uncovered a plot to blow up the attock oil refinery when they seized explosives from a tanker there.

Fire in Storage Tanks Extinguished

BK2210135089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] In Karachi, the fire which broke out in the oil storage tanks at Kiamari oil installations this morning was extinguished this afternoon. Fire brigade sources told Radio Pakistan's Karachi representative that the fire was completely extinguished by 25 fire engines in 6 hours. Five firemen were slightly injured due to a wall collapse. The extent of the damage caused by the fire is being assessed.

Sri Lanka

President Approves State of Emergency Extension

BK2010160689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan Parliament today approved extension of the emergency for another month. Agency reports from Colombo say that the entire opposition voted against the provision.

'Sources' Say LTTE Leader Arrives in Colombo

BK2210103089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1013 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Colombo, Oct 22 (AFP)—A top leader of Sri Lanka's leading Tamil separatist group arrived here Sunday [22 October] for possible peace talks with the government, Tamil sources close to the group said.

Sathasivam Krishnakumar, a senior leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) better known by his code-name "Kittu", was picked up from a jungle hideout in the North and brought here by Air Force helicopter, they said. He was accompanied by Anton Balasingham, the group's London-based idealogue, and other leaders who have been holding peace talks with the government.

Mr. Balasingham and the others left for the LTTE's jungle hideouts last week for consultations with the group's supremo, Velupillai Prabhakaran, following pressure from the government to take part in a peace committee set up for the Tamil-populated Northeastern Province.

The group had earlier refused to participate in the committee, set up in line with an agreement between India and Sri Lanka last month on the pullout by December 31 of some 40,000 Indian troops deployed in the province. The committee is to recommend steps for maintaining peace in the province during the pullout.

Tamil sources said Kittu, a former LTTE military commander for the northern Jaffna Peninsula, who lost a leg

in a 1987 grenade attack, may have arrived in the capital to participate in the peace committee. The LTTE apparently did not want to take part because of the presence on the committee of the rival Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), which controls the province.

The government wanted the LTTE to take part as President Ranasinghe Premadasa had given an undertaking to India that the group would take part in the peace process.

India deployed its troops in the North and East under a July 1987 peace agreement with Sri Lanka which sought to end Tamil separatism in the island. The LTTE repudiated the pact and had been carrying on a bloody bush-war against the Indian troops until India declared a ceasefire as part of the pullout agreement.

IPKF Contingent Leaves Amparai for Home

BK2310034689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] A contingent of the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] left Kalmunai in Amparai District of Sri Lanka yesterday for home. They will leave Trincomalee on the 25th of this month. Prominent citizens of Kalmunai arranged a traditional farewell all along the route. At many places, officers and soldiers of the PKF were stopped and garlanded by citizens. The citizens expressed their gratitude for the services of the PKF and decorated the entire route, which the PKF passed through.

AIR [All India Radio] correspondent, G. Subramaniam, who visited many places in Amparai District, reports from Batticaloa that a large number of people, including women and children, were lined up showing placards: Soldiers of peace, we salute you. Our correspondent further reports that the people of Kalmunai gave a tearful send off to the PKF. Deputy Inspector General of Police T.D. Ananta Raja formally took charge of the law and order in Amparai District yesterday.

Earlier, the chief minister of the Northeastern Province, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, told our correspondent that the law and order in Amparai District will be looked after by the northeastern provincial government since the police and the CVF [Civil Volunteer Force] have been brought under its control. Later talking to prominent citizens at Samanthurai, he thanked the PKF on behalf of the people of the Northeastern Province for their excellent services rendered during their stay in Amparai District.

Jayewardene Retires From Politics, Quits Party

BK2210133989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Former Sri Lankan President Mr J.R. Jayewardene has announced his resignation from the ruling United National Party [UNP] and his retirement from politics. Mr Jayewardene, who governed the island Republic for 11 years, said in Colombo that he has ceased to be in politics, but does not have any difference with the UNP.

25 More People Killed in Violence, Clashes

BK2010151489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 25 more people have died in unabated political violence. A military spokesman in Colombo said today that security forces raided a house in Northwestern Province last night, killing two JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] rebels. An informant was also killed in the clash. Nineteen guns and some ammunition, including explosives, were recovered from the house.

In a separate incident yesterday, an Army patrol came under attack at Matale in Central Province. Troops returned fire, killing two attackers and capturing some weapons. Two more rebels were killed elsewhere in the area. A soldier was shot dead and another injured when suspected JVP gunmen fired at them in the neighboring Kegalle District.

22 Reported Killed

BK2110125689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 22 persons have been killed in continuing violence. Agency reports quoting military sources say that suspected JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] activists blew up an Army truck in Hambantota District today, killing 5 soldiers and injuring 15. Elsewhere in the island, 17 persons lost their lives in separate incidents. Three JVP men were shot dead by security forces in different encounters.

Police Arrest 'Subversives,' Seize Weapons

BK2110134989 Colombo International Service in English 1245 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] Police and the security forces in continuing operations in many parts of the country since yesterday afternoon took into custody several suspects and recovered arms and ammunition. In the Gampaha District, police arrested two subversives during cordon and search operations.

In the Kalutara District, operations were carried out during this period at three locations, resulting in the arrest of a subversive and the recovery of five galgattas [locally made pistols]; a shotgun; Air Force, Navy, and police uniforms; cartridges; detonators; gelignite sticks; and detonator cord. At Horana, police raided a subversive hideout and recovered a number of weapons, including a T-81 rifle, a (?repeater) shotgun, 10 kg of gelignite, camouflage uniforms, and bombs.

In the Kegalle District, during search operations, the security forces arrested six suspects and recovered three shotguns and some explosives.

In the Hambantota District and Beliata, security forces mobile patrol arrested three suspects with a Roneo machine which was removed from the MPCS [Multipurpose Cooperative Society] by the suspects. Weapons were also recovered during operations in the Badulla and Matale Districts.

In the Polonnaruwa District, at Veeralanda, subversives robbed cash and the ticket box from the conductor of a transport board bus. Police rushed to the scene and during an exchange of gunfire killed the subversives and recovered one pistol and 12 rounds of 9 mm ammunition.

In the Puttalam District at Anamaduwa, the security forces raided the jungle hideout of subversives and recovered several weapons, including a T-56 rifle, a T-84-S rifle, 3 grenades, 50 kg of gelignite and a stock of ammunition.

Meanwhile, the curfew will be effective from midnight to 0400 tomorrow.